

ON THE QUANTUM HOMOLOGY OF REAL LAGRANGIANS IN FANO TORIC MANIFOLDS

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ABSTRACT. Let R be the real Lagrangian in a toric symplectic manifold X , i.e. the fixed point set under complex conjugation. Assuming that X is Fano of minimal Chern number at least 2, we show that the Lagrangian quantum homology $QH(R; \Lambda)$ of R over the ring $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}_2[t, t^{-1}]$ is isomorphic to $H(R; \mathbb{Z}_2) \otimes \Lambda$ as a module. Moreover, we prove that $QH(R; \Lambda)$ is isomorphic *as a ring* to the quantum homology $QH(X; \Lambda)$ of the ambient symplectic manifold.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. **Setting.** Let (X, ω) be a symplectic toric manifold of dimension $2n$, that is, a compact symplectic manifold endowed with an effective Hamiltonian action of an n -dimensional torus Q . Denote by $\mu : X \rightarrow \mathfrak{q}^*$ its moment map, where \mathfrak{q}^* is the dual of the Lie algebra of Q , and by Δ its moment polytope, i.e., the image of μ . X carries a distinguished anti-symplectic involution $\tau : X \rightarrow X$, characterized by the fact that it leaves the moment map μ invariant. We refer to it as *complex conjugation*. Its fixed point set

$$R := \text{Fix } \tau$$

is a Lagrangian submanifold, which we call the *real Lagrangian* of X . The prototypical example for a pair (X, R) is $(\mathbb{C}P^n, \mathbb{R}P^n)$.

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For the purpose of this paper, we think of a symplectic toric manifold as being obtained by equipping a Fano toric manifold X with a Kähler form ω whose cohomology class represents a positive multiple of $c_1(X)$. In particular, we thus assume ω to be monotone, which by definition means that the homomorphisms $I_\omega, I_{c_1} : \pi_2(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by integration of the classes ω and $c_1(X)$ satisfy

$$I_{c_1} = \rho I_\omega$$

for some $\rho \geq 0$. This ensures that also R is monotone, meaning in this case that the homomorphisms $I_\omega, I_\mu : \pi_2(X, R) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ given by integration of ω respectively the Maslov index are related by

$$I_\omega = \rho' I_\mu$$

for some $\rho' \geq 0$. The minimal Chern number of X and the minimal Maslov number of R are defined by

$$\begin{aligned} C_X &:= \min \{ \langle c_1(X), \lambda \rangle > 0 \mid \lambda \in \pi_2(X) \}, \\ N_R &:= \min \{ \langle \mu(R), \lambda \rangle > 0 \mid \lambda \in \pi_2(X, R) \}. \end{aligned}$$

It is easy to see that they coincide in our situation, $C_X = N_R$. We assume further that

$$C_X, N_R \geq 2.$$

1.2. Main result. Under these assumptions, various versions of the *Lagrangian quantum homology ring* $QH(R)$ introduced by Biran and Cornea [7] are defined. The purpose of this paper is to study

$$QH(R; \Lambda_R),$$

the version obtained by using as coefficients the ring $\Lambda_R = \mathbb{Z}_2[t^{-1}, t]$ of \mathbb{Z}_2 -Laurent polynomials, the latter graded by setting the degree of the formal variable to be $|t| = -N_R$. We will show that there is a close relation to the quantum homology ring

$$QH(X; \Lambda_X)$$

of the ambient manifold defined over the ring $\Lambda_X = \mathbb{Z}_2[q^{-1}, q]$, where in this case the formal variable has degree $|q| = -2C_X$.

The main result of the paper is the following theorem.

Theorem A. *Let (X, ω) be a monotone symplectic toric manifold with minimal Chern number $C_X \geq 2$ and let R be its real Lagrangian. Then the following hold.*

- (i) *There exists a canonical isomorphism of Λ_R -modules*

$$QH(R; \Lambda_R) \cong H(R; \mathbb{Z}_2) \otimes \Lambda_R.$$

- (ii) *Moreover, there exists a canonical degree-doubling ring isomorphism*

$$QH(R; \Lambda_R) \cong QH(X; \Lambda_X).$$

The first statement says that R is Λ_R -wide in the terminology of [7], meaning the existence of an isomorphism as in (i) (in general not required to be canonical). Since $QH(R; \Lambda_R)$ is isomorphic to the Lagrangian intersection Floer homology $HF(R; \Lambda_R)$, see [7], the wideness immediately implies the following non-displacement result: For any Hamiltonian diffeomorphism ϕ of (X, ω) such that R and $\phi(R)$ intersect transversely, we have

$$\#(R \cap \phi(R)) \geq \sum_{j=1}^n b_j(R; \mathbb{Z}_2),$$

where the $b_j(R; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ denote the \mathbb{Z}_2 Betti numbers of R . In terms of the moment polytope Δ , the right-hand side is the number of its vertices, as will become clear later.

The second part of the theorem allows to write down the ring structure of $QH(R; \Lambda_R)$ using the known description of $QH(X; \Lambda_X)$ for Fano toric manifolds. The latter was first computed by Batyrev [5] and later by Cieliebak–Salamon [11] using different methods (both work with more general coefficients). We give two examples.

Example 1.1. Consider $X = \mathbb{C}P^n$ with its standard monotone symplectic form and its real part $R = \mathbb{R}P^n$. We have $C_X = N_R = n + 1$. Denote by $h_{\mathbb{C}} = [\mathbb{C}P^{n-1}] \in H_{2n-2}(\mathbb{C}P^n; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ and $h_{\mathbb{R}} = [\mathbb{R}P^{n-1}] \in H_{n-1}(\mathbb{R}P^n; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ the classes of a complex respectively real projective hyperplane. These generate the classical intersection products: $h_{\mathbb{C}}^{\cap i} = [\mathbb{C}P^{2n-2i}] \in H_{2n-2i}(\mathbb{C}P^n; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ and $h_{\mathbb{R}}^{\cap i} = [\mathbb{R}P^{n-i}] \in H_{n-i}(\mathbb{R}P^n; \mathbb{Z}_2)$. The quantum product on $QH(\mathbb{C}P^n; \Lambda_X) \cong H(\mathbb{C}P^n; \mathbb{Z}_2) \otimes \Lambda_X$ is given by

$$h_{\mathbb{C}}^{*i} = \begin{cases} h_{\mathbb{C}}^{\cap i}, & i = 1, \dots, n, \\ [\mathbb{C}P^n]q, & i = n + 1, \end{cases}$$

see e.g. [22]. It follows that the quantum ring structure on $QH(\mathbb{R}P^n; \Lambda_R) \cong H(\mathbb{R}P^n; \mathbb{Z}_2) \otimes \Lambda_R$ is given by

$$h_{\mathbb{R}}^{*i} = \begin{cases} h_{\mathbb{R}}^{\cap i}, & i = 1, \dots, n, \\ [\mathbb{R}P^n]t, & i = n + 1. \end{cases}$$

Example 1.2. Consider now $X = \mathbb{C}P^1 \times \mathbb{C}P^1 \cong S^2 \times S^2$ with the monotone symplectic form $\omega_{\mathbb{C}P^1} \times \omega_{\mathbb{C}P^1}$. The real part is $R = \mathbb{R}P^1 \times \mathbb{R}P^1 \cong T^2$ and we have $C_X = N_R = 2$. Setting $A := [\mathbb{C}P^1 \times \text{pt}]$, $B := [\text{pt} \times \mathbb{C}P^1] \in H_2(X; \mathbb{Z}_2)$, the quantum product on $QH(X; \Lambda_X) = H(X; \mathbb{Z}_2) \otimes \Lambda_X$ satisfies

$$A * B = B * A = [\text{pt}], \quad A * A = B * B = [X]q.$$

(In fact, this determines all other products by the associativity of $*$.) Setting $a := [\mathbb{R}P^1 \times \text{pt}]$, $b := [\text{pt} \times \mathbb{R}P^1] \in H_1(R; \mathbb{Z}_2)$, we conclude that the quantum product on $QH(R; \Lambda_R) \cong H(R; \mathbb{Z}_2) \otimes \Lambda_R$ is determined by

$$a * b = b * a = [\text{pt}], \quad a * a = b * b = [R]t.$$

We now give a heuristic explanation for why the wideness part of Theorem A should hold. The quantum homology $QH(R; \Lambda_R)$ is the homology of a deformed Morse complex, whose differential d decomposes as

$$d = d_0 + d_1.$$

The “classical” part d_0 counts Morse trajectories, while the “quantum” part d_1 counts pearly trajectories, that is, certain configurations of Morse trajectories with (pseudo)–holomorphic discs interspersed between them. Whenever we work with a τ –anti-invariant almost complex structure, such as the standard integrable J_0 , there exists an involution on the moduli spaces of discs, given by reflecting discs along R , and consequently also on the moduli spaces of pearly trajectories. The idea is that all the quantum contributions entering d_1 should cancel in the \mathbb{Z}_2 –count because of this involution, so that d_1 vanishes and hence d is equal to the Morse differential. However, this reasoning does not take into account that the involution might have fixed points (it actually does!), which a priori destroys the argument. Showing that it still works requires to take a closer look at the involution, see Section 6.

To approach the relation between $QH(R; \Lambda_R)$ and $QH(X; \Lambda_X)$, the first thing to note is that on the classical level there exists a degree-doubling isomorphism

$$H(R; \mathbb{Z}_2) \rightarrow H(X; \mathbb{Z}_2)$$

which respects the ring structures given by the intersection products. The inverse map is easy to describe: It is induced by mapping all τ –invariant cycles, which generate $H(X; \mathbb{Z}_2)$, to their τ –fixed parts. We will use an argument of Duistermaat, ultimately based on classical Smith theory, to show that this leads to an isomorphism. While it seems unlikely that this isomorphism has not been known before, the author is not aware of a position in the literature where it appears.

Part (ii) of Theorem A states that this relation stays true on the quantum level. The heuristic idea is similar to the one for the proof of the wideness statement. Since $QH(X; \Lambda_X)$ is by definition $H(X; \mathbb{Z}_2) \otimes \Lambda_X$ as a Λ_X –module, the wideness of R allows to conclude immediately that $QH(R; \Lambda_R)$ and $QH(X; \Lambda_X)$ are isomorphic as modules. In the case of the ambient manifold X , the quantum product is a deformation of the classical intersection product using 3–point genus zero Gromov–Witten invariants. In the Morse picture, this means that the non-classical part counts Y–type configurations of Morse trajectories connected by a holomorphic sphere in the center. In the case of the real part R , the quantum product counts Y–type configurations of pearly trajectories connected by a holomorphic disc. Similar to the case of the differential, there exists an involution on the moduli space of Y–pearls, and the same type of cancellation argument says that all contributions with a non-central non-constant disc should occur in pairs and hence cancel when \mathbb{Z}_2 –counting them. Moreover, if we work with τ –invariant Morse functions $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ having all their critical points on R , there should be a 1–1 correspondence between the remaining Y–pearls on the Lagrangian side and those on the ambient side.

Again, this argument fails a priori because the involution on the moduli space of discs has fixed points.

1.3. Previous results. The first results in the direction of Theorem A were obtained by Oh [24] who proved that $HF(\mathbb{R}P^n; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ is isomorphic as a vector space to $H(\mathbb{R}P^n; \mathbb{Z}_2)$. Later Biran and Cornea computed the ring structure of $QH(\mathbb{R}P^n; \Lambda)$, in fact as a special case of a series of more general results for Lagrangians $L \subset \mathbb{C}P^n$ satisfying the condition $2H_1(L; \mathbb{Z}) = 0$ (see [8] or Section 6.2.2 in [6]).

As for general toric manifolds, there is another family of natural Lagrangian submanifolds, namely the smooth fibres of the moment map. The study of the Floer homology of the monotone ones was started by Cho–Oh [10] and later extended in a series of papers by Cho. There are also recent results due to Alston–Amorim [2] and Abreu–Macarini [1] on the Floer homology $HF(R, L)$ of the real part R and a smooth moment fibre L .

There have also been efforts to calculate the Floer homology (as a module) of Lagrangians which are fixed point sets of anti-symplectic involutions in more general contexts than that of toric manifolds, see e.g. the works by Frauenfelder [15] and Fukaya–Oh–Ohta–Ono [16].

1.4. Organisation of the paper. We provide the necessary background on symplectic toric manifolds in Section 2. In Section 3 we examine the topology of R and its relation to that of X using τ -invariant Morse functions. More precisely, we prove $H(R; \mathbb{Z}_2) \cong H(X; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ as rings. Section 4 provides a sort of classification of the holomorphic discs $u : (D^2, \partial D^2) \rightarrow (X, R)$ with boundary on R . We show that after removing a boundary point, they admit a representation in toric homogeneous coordinates. This is used in Section 5 to prove that the standard complex structure J_0 is regular for them. Basically the same argument will also show the regularity of J_0 for all holomorphic spheres $v : \mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow X$. In Section 6 we take a closer look at the involution on the moduli space of real discs. We describe its fixed point set and show that all fixed points we eventually have to count in the definition of the quantum invariants occur in pairs. Section 7 is technical and serves to show that generic choices of τ -invariant data lead to well-behaved moduli spaces. In Section 8 we finally assemble all the ingredients and prove the main result.

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2. SYMPLECTIC TORIC MANIFOLDS

There are essentially two ways of constructing a symplectic toric manifold, both starting from a suitable polytope Δ in $(\mathbb{R}^n)^*$. The first is by symplectic reduction of some \mathbb{C}^N with respect to a torus action, in a way encoded by Δ . In the second, one starts by building a complex manifold X_Σ together with a torus action from the normal fan Σ of Δ , and then embeds X_Σ into some big projective space to define the symplectic form. In both cases one obtains a symplectic manifold together with a Hamiltonian torus action whose moment polytope is Δ .

The two constructions are equivalent in the sense that there exist equivariant symplectomorphisms between the resulting symplectic toric manifolds, which follows from a theorem of Delzant [12]. We will describe the second variant as it is more suited to our needs.

The entire section is heavily inspired by the texts from which the author first learned about symplectic toric manifolds, mainly the book by Audin [3] and the lecture notes by Cannas da Silva contained in [4], but also to some extent the treatment in Cho and Oh's paper [10].

2.1. Cones, fans, polytopes. We start by giving definitions of the relevant combinatorial objects.

Definition 2.1. A *cone* in \mathbb{R}^n of dimension r is a subset $\sigma \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ that can be written in the form

$$\sigma = \{a_1 v_1 + \cdots + a_r v_r \mid a_1, \dots, a_r \geq 0\}$$

with linearly independent vectors $v_1, \dots, v_r \in \mathbb{R}^n$, the *generators* of σ . A cone is called *rational and smooth* if it admits a set of generators in \mathbb{Z}^n which can be extended to a \mathbb{Z} -basis of \mathbb{Z}^n . Any other cone $\sigma' \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ admitting a set of generators v'_1, \dots, v'_s such that $\{v'_1, \dots, v'_s\} \subset \{v_1, \dots, v_r\}$ is called a *face* of σ .

Definition 2.2. A *fan* in \mathbb{R}^n is a finite set $\Sigma = \{\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_\ell\}$ of cones in \mathbb{R}^n with the following properties:

- (i) For every cone $\sigma \in \Sigma$ and every face σ' of σ , we have $\sigma' \in \Sigma$.
- (ii) For all cones $\sigma, \sigma' \in \Sigma$, the cone $\sigma \cap \sigma'$ is a face of both σ and σ' .

Σ is *complete* if in addition the condition

- (iii) $\sigma_1 \cup \cdots \cup \sigma_\ell = \mathbb{R}^n$

holds. For a fan Σ , we denote by $\Sigma^{(r)}$ the set of its r -dimensional cones.

Definition 2.3. A *polytope* Δ in $(\mathbb{R}^n)^*$ is a bounded subset that can be written as the intersection of a finite number of affine half-spaces, i.e.

$$\Delta = \{\varphi \in (\mathbb{R}^n)^* \mid \langle \varphi, v_i \rangle \geq -a_i \ \forall i \in [1, N]\}$$

with $v_1, \dots, v_N \in \mathbb{R}^n$ and $a_1, \dots, a_N \in \mathbb{R}$. Given a fixed collection of such defining normal vectors v_i , for $I \subset [1, N]$ the subset

$$F_I := \{\varphi \in \Delta \mid \langle \varphi, v_i \rangle = -a_i \ \forall i \in I\}$$

is called the *I -th face* of Δ if it is non-empty.

A polytope Δ in $(\mathbb{R}^n)^*$ gives rise to a fan $\Sigma(\Delta)$ in \mathbb{R}^n as follows:

Definition 2.4. Given a face F_I of Δ , let σ_I be the cone generated by the normal vectors v_i , $i \in I$. Then

$$\Sigma(\Delta) := \{\sigma_I \mid F_I \text{ is a face of } \Delta\}$$

is a fan called the *normal fan* of Δ .

2.2. Constructing a toric manifold from a fan. Let Σ be a complete fan of smooth rational cones of dimension n . In this subsection we will construct the *toric manifold* associated to Σ , which by definition is a compact complex manifold

$$X \equiv X_\Sigma$$

together with an effective action of an n -dimensional complex torus $Q_{\mathbb{C}} \cong T_{\mathbb{C}}^n$.¹

The starting point for the construction of X is the standard action of $T_{\mathbb{C}}^N$ on \mathbb{C}^N given by

$$(t_1, \dots, t_N) \cdot (z_1, \dots, z_N) = (t_1 z_1, \dots, t_N z_N).$$

The idea is to use the combinatorics of Σ to find a certain subtorus $K_{\mathbb{C}} \subset T_{\mathbb{C}}^N$ and a subset $\mathcal{U} \subset \mathbb{C}^N$ such that the restriction of the action of $K_{\mathbb{C}}$ to \mathcal{U} is free.

As for the definition of $K_{\mathbb{C}}$, denote by $\{v_1, \dots, v_N\} \subset \mathbb{Z}^n$ the set of primitive integral generators of the 1-dimensional cones in Σ and consider the homomorphism

$$\pi : \mathbb{Z}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^n, \quad e_j \mapsto v_j \quad \text{for } j = 1, \dots, N,$$

where $e_j = (0, \dots, 1, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{Z}^N$ is the j -th standard basis vector. Denote by \mathbb{K} the kernel of π and define $K_{\mathbb{C}}$ to be the subgroup of $T_{\mathbb{C}}^N$ generated by all 1-parameter subgroups $T_{\mathbb{C}}^1 \rightarrow T_{\mathbb{C}}^N$ of the form

$$\tau \mapsto \tau^\lambda := (\tau^{\lambda_1}, \dots, \tau^{\lambda_N}),$$

with $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N) \in \mathbb{K}$.

Next we construct $\mathcal{U} \subset \mathbb{C}^N$. Given a subset $I = \{i_1, \dots, i_r\} \subseteq [1, N]$, consider the linear subspace $Z_I := \{z \in \mathbb{C}^N \mid i \in I \implies z_i = 0\}$ and denote by σ_I the cone generated by the v_i , $i \in I$. Then set

$$\mathcal{U} := \mathbb{C}^N \setminus \bigcup_{\sigma_I \notin \Sigma} Z_I.$$

To describe this in words: A point $z = (z_1, \dots, z_N) \in \mathbb{C}^N$ belongs to \mathcal{U} iff the cone σ_{I_z} belongs to Σ , where $I_z := \{i \in [1, N] \mid z_i = 0\}$.

Lemma 2.5. *The restriction of the standard action of the subgroup $K_{\mathbb{C}} \subset T_{\mathbb{C}}^N$ to the set $\mathcal{U} \subset \mathbb{C}^N$ is free.*

It follows that the quotient

$$X \equiv X_\Sigma := \mathcal{U}/K_{\mathbb{C}}$$

is a complex manifold of dimension n , with the complex structure J_0 inherited from the one on \mathbb{C}^N . We denote by $\pi : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow X$ the canonical projection and commonly refer to points of X using “toric homogeneous coordinates”, i.e. we write

$$[z_1 : \dots : z_N]_X := \pi(z_1, \dots, z_N),$$

in reminiscence of the homogeneous coordinates on projective space. The completeness of Σ implies that X is compact (see Proposition VII.1.4 in [3]). Moreover, the $T_{\mathbb{C}}^N$ -action on \mathcal{U} induces an action of the quotient

$$Q_{\mathbb{C}} := T_{\mathbb{C}}^N / K_{\mathbb{C}}$$

¹We write $T_{\mathbb{C}}^n$ for $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n$ whenever it plays the role of a group acting on a space.

on X , which is an n -dimensional complex torus.

2.3. The toric divisors, the first Chern class and the homology ring. To any cone $\sigma \in \Sigma$ of dimension r , we associate a complex submanifold of X by setting

$$C_\sigma := \pi(Z_{I_\sigma}),$$

where $I_\sigma := \{i \in [1, N] \mid v_i \text{ generates an edge of } \sigma\}$. C_σ has complex codimension r and is invariant under the $Q_{\mathbb{C}}$ -action because Z_{I_σ} is invariant under the standard $T_{\mathbb{C}}^N$ -action. Using toric homogeneous coordinates, we can write

$$C_\sigma = \{[z_1 : \cdots : z_N]_X \mid i \in I_\sigma \implies z_i = 0\}.$$

Of particular importance are the hypersurfaces corresponding to the 1-dimensional cones in Σ . We denote them by

$$D_1, \dots, D_N \subset X$$

and refer to them as the *toric divisors*. Their homology classes generate $H_*(X; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ as a ring with respect to the intersection product. More precisely, we have

$$H_*(X; \mathbb{Z}_2) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2[[D_1], \dots, [D_N]] / (\mathcal{I} + \mathcal{J}),$$

where $\mathbb{Z}_2[[D_1], \dots, [D_N]]$ is the polynomial ring in the variables $[D_i]$, and the ideals by which one quotients out are

$$\mathcal{I} = \left\langle \sum_{i=1}^N \langle \varepsilon, v_i \rangle [D_i] \mid \varepsilon \in (\mathbb{Z}^n)^* \right\rangle, \quad \mathcal{J} = \left\langle \prod_{i \in I} [D_i] \mid I \subset [1, N] \text{ with } \sigma_I \notin \Sigma \right\rangle.$$

Moreover, the union of the D_i represents the first Chern class of X , in the sense that

$$c_1(X) = PD([D_1] + \cdots + [D_N]).$$

For all of this consult [3].

2.4. Affine open subsets. We next introduce a cover of X by open subsets biholomorphic to \mathbb{C}^n corresponding to the n -dimensional cones in Σ . Given any such cone $\sigma \in \Sigma^{(n)}$, let $I_\sigma = \{i \in [1, N] \mid v_i \text{ generates an edge of } \sigma\}$ be as before and set

$$V_\sigma := \{[z_1 : \cdots : z_N]_X \in X \mid z_i = 0 \implies i \in I_\sigma\}.$$

That is, V_σ is obtained from X by cutting out those toric divisors D_i for which v_i is not part of the set of generators of σ .

It is easy to see that the V_σ with $\sigma \in \Sigma^{(n)}$ provide a cover of X . Indeed, given any point $z \in \mathcal{U}$, let $I_z := \{i \in [1, N] \mid z_i = 0\}$ and note that we have $\sigma_{I_z} \in \Sigma$ by the definition of \mathcal{U} . Hence σ_{I_z} is a face of an n -dimensional cone $\sigma \in \Sigma$ by the completeness of Σ , and clearly we have $z \in V_\sigma$.

Lemma 2.6. *For every $\sigma \in \Sigma^{(n)}$, the set $V_\sigma \subset X$ is biholomorphic to \mathbb{C}^n .*

Proof. We assume without loss of generality that the generators of the edges of σ are the vectors $v_{k+1}, \dots, v_N \in \mathbb{Z}^n$, where $k := N - n$. These form a basis of \mathbb{Z}^n , and we denote by $\nu_{k+1}, \dots, \nu_N \in (\mathbb{Z}^n)^*$ the dual basis.

Next we define a basis $\lambda^{(1)}, \dots, \lambda^{(k)} \in \mathbb{K} = \ker \pi$ by setting

$$\lambda_j^{(i)} := \begin{cases} \delta_{ij}, & j \in [1, k] \\ -\langle \nu_j, v_i \rangle, & j \in [k+1, N]. \end{cases}$$

Note that we have $\pi(\lambda^{(i)}) = v_i - \sum_{j=k+1}^N \langle \nu_j, v_i \rangle v_j$ for all $i \in [1, k]$, and consequently $\langle \nu_j, \pi(\lambda^{(i)}) \rangle = \langle \nu_j, v_i \rangle - \langle \nu_j, v_i \rangle = 0$ for $j \in [k+1, N]$, which shows that all $\lambda^{(i)}$ belong to \mathbb{K} . Since they are clearly linearly independent, they constitute indeed a basis of \mathbb{K} .

Let now $z = [z_1 : \dots : z_N]_X \in V_\sigma$, which means that $z_1, \dots, z_k \neq 0$. We claim that z is represented by an element of \mathcal{U} of the form $(1, \dots, 1, *_{k+1}, \dots, *_N)$. Namely, acting on such a vector with $z_1^{\lambda^{(1)}} \dots z_k^{\lambda^{(k)}} \in K_{\mathbb{C}}$ yields

$$z_1^{\lambda^{(1)}} \dots z_k^{\lambda^{(k)}} \cdot (1, \dots, 1, *_{k+1}, \dots, *_N) = (z_1, \dots, z_k, *_'_{k+1}, \dots, *_'_N)$$

with $*'_j = *_j \cdot \prod_{i=1}^k z_i^{\lambda_j^{(i)}}$ for $j \in [k+1, N]$. Setting $*_j := z_j \cdot \prod_{i=1}^k z_i^{-\lambda_j^{(i)}}$ thus produces the required vector. Note that we can write

$$*_j = z_j \cdot \prod_{i=1}^k z_i^{\langle \nu_j, v_i \rangle} = \prod_{i=1}^N z_i^{\langle \nu_j, v_i \rangle},$$

because $\langle \nu_j, v_i \rangle = \delta_{ij}$ for $i \in [k+1, N]$. It follows that the map given by

$$[z_1 : \dots : z_N]_X \mapsto \left(\prod_{i=1}^N z_i^{\langle \nu_{k+1}, v_i \rangle}, \dots, \prod_{i=1}^N z_i^{\langle \nu_N, v_i \rangle} \right)$$

provides a biholomorphism $V_\sigma \cong \mathbb{C}^n$. \square

2.5. The symplectic form determined by a polytope. Let Δ be a polytope in $(\mathbb{R}^n)^*$ and let $\Sigma(\Delta)$ be its normal fan. In this subsection we describe how Δ determines an embedding of the toric manifold $X \equiv X_{\Sigma(\Delta)}$ into some projective space. Pulling back the Fubini-Study form ω_{FS} will then equip X with a symplectic form ω such that the action of the real torus $Q \subset Q_{\mathbb{C}}$ is Hamiltonian. For this to work we need to assume that Δ has the following additional properties:

- (1) Δ is *lattice*, in the sense that all vertices belong to $(\mathbb{Z}^n)^*$.
- (2) Δ is *Delzant*, meaning that its defining set of normal vectors v_i , $i \in [1, N]$, can be chosen such that for every (non-empty) face F_I , the corresponding collection of v_i , $i \in I$, can be extended to a \mathbb{Z} -basis of $(\mathbb{Z}^n)^*$.

$\Sigma(\Delta)$ is then a complete fan of smooth rational cones, and hence X is a compact toric manifold.

The construction of the embedding goes as follows. Denote by $m_1, \dots, m_L \in \Delta \cap (\mathbb{Z}^n)^*$ the lattice points of Δ , and let $F_i \subset \Delta$ be the i -th facet of Δ , i.e. the codimension-1 face with normal vector v_i . Set $LD(m_i, F_j) := \langle m_i, v_j \rangle + a_j \in \mathbb{Z}$, which is the lattice distance of m_i from the facet F_j . That is, m_i lies on the $LD(m_i, F_j)$ -th hyperplane parallel to F_j , counting from F_j . Now define a map

$\mathbb{C}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^L$ by

$$(z_1, \dots, z_N) \mapsto \left(\prod_{j=1}^N z_j^{LD(m_1, F_j)}, \dots, \prod_{j=1}^N z_j^{LD(m_L, F_j)} \right).$$

Its restriction to $\mathcal{U} \subset \mathbb{C}^N$ takes values in $\mathbb{C}^L \setminus \{0\}$ and descends to a map

$$\Psi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^{L-1}$$

which is actually an embedding (see e.g. [23]). Moreover, it is equivariant with respect to the action of the real torus $Q := \{(t_1, \dots, t_N) \in Q_{\mathbb{C}} \mid |t_i| = 1 \ \forall i\}$ on X and the \mathbb{T}^n -action on $\mathbb{C}P^{L-1}$ given by

$$(t_1, \dots, t_n) \cdot [z_1 : \dots : z_L] = [t^{m_1} z_1 : \dots : t^{m_L} z_L],$$

with $t^{m_i} := t_1^{m_{i,1}} \dots t_n^{m_{i,n}}$. The latter is Hamiltonian and has moment map

$$\hat{\mu} : \mathbb{C}P^{L-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n, \quad [z_1 : \dots : z_L] \mapsto \frac{\sum_{i=1}^L m_i |z_i|^2}{\sum_{i=1}^L |z_i|^2},$$

with respect to (a multiple of) ω_{FS} . The image of $\hat{\mu}$ is the convex hull of the m_i , i.e. the polytope Δ , and this stays true for the restriction of $\hat{\mu}$ to $\Psi(X)$. Consult the last section of Cannas da Silva's notes [4] for more details on that.

It follows that $\omega := \Psi^* \omega_{FS}$ makes X a symplectic manifold such that the Q -action is Hamiltonian with a moment map $\mu : X \rightarrow \mathfrak{q}^*$ whose image is the polytope $\Delta \subset \mathfrak{q}^* \cong (\mathbb{R}^n)^*$.

2.6. Complex conjugation. Complex conjugation on $\mathcal{U} \subset \mathbb{C}^N$ descends to an involution

$$\tau : X \rightarrow X$$

which we also refer to as complex conjugation. It is anti-symplectic with respect to $\omega = \Psi^* \omega_{FS}$ and related to the torus action by

$$\tau \circ q = q^{-1} \circ \tau$$

for $q \in Q$. In particular, τ maps Q -orbits to Q -orbits but reverses the time order on them. Observe that τ leaves the moment map invariant, i.e. $\mu \circ \tau = \mu$. This property characterizes τ among all anti-symplectic involutions on X (up to conjugation by Q -equivariant symplectomorphisms).

3. THE TOPOLOGY OF THE REAL LAGRANGIAN

Let now X be a symplectic toric manifold of real dimension $2n$ and R its real part. The purpose of this section is to explain the relation between the homology rings $H_*(X; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ and $H_*(R; \mathbb{Z}_2)$.

3.1. τ -invariant Morse functions. Denote by Q the n -dimensional torus acting on X in a Hamiltonian way, and by $\mu : X \rightarrow \mathfrak{q}^*$ the corresponding moment map, where \mathfrak{q}^* is the dual of the Lie algebra \mathfrak{q} of Q . We will work with the following family of τ -invariant functions, defined by

$$f_\xi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}, \quad x \mapsto \langle \mu(x), \xi \rangle,$$

for $\xi \in \mathfrak{q}$. If ξ is chosen generically, then f_ξ is Morse, and in this case the critical points of f_ξ are precisely the points where $D\mu$ vanishes, i.e., the preimages of the vertices of the moment polytope Δ . The Morse index $|p|$ at such a point is given by twice the number of edges of Δ meeting at the vertex $\mu(p)$ for which the evaluation of an inward-pointing generating vector on ξ is negative. In particular, all critical points have even Morse index, so that f_ξ is perfect, i.e. the Morse differential vanishes.

The restriction $f_\xi|_R$ is a Morse function on R , and the τ -invariance implies easily that all critical points of $f_\xi|_R$ are also critical points of f_ξ , i.e. $\text{Crit} f_\xi|_R \subseteq \text{Crit} f_\xi$. In fact we even have:

Lemma 3.1. *The sets $\text{Crit} f_\xi$ and $\text{Crit} f_\xi|_R$ coincide, and the index of any critical point p of f_ξ is twice the index of p as a critical point of $f_\xi|_R$.*

Proof. For the first statement, it remains to show that $\text{Crit} f_\xi \subseteq \text{Crit} f_\xi|_R$, which clearly follows if we can show $\text{Crit} f_\xi \subset R$. Note that the μ -preimages of all faces of Δ , in particular of the vertices, are connected and invariant under τ , because their preimages under $\pi : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow X$ are the sets $Z_I \subset \mathbb{C}^N$ (see Section 2.2), which are connected and invariant under complex conjugation. In particular, the preimage of every vertex is a single point in R , and hence $\text{Crit} f_\xi$ is contained in R .

The statement about the indices is an immediate consequence of the fact that at every critical point x of f_ξ , there exist local coordinates q_j, p_j centered at x , such that f_ξ can locally be expressed as

$$f_\xi = f_\xi(x) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{j=1}^n \langle \eta_j, \xi \rangle (q_j^2 + p_j^2)$$

with certain $\eta_j \in \mathfrak{q}^*$, and such that R is given by the vanishing of p locally. This is part of Proposition 2.2 in [13]. In these coordinates the Hessians are

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Hess } f_\xi|_R(x) &= \text{diag}(\langle \eta_1, \xi \rangle, \dots, \langle \eta_n, \xi \rangle), \\ \text{Hess } f_\xi(x) &= \text{diag}(\langle \eta_1, \xi \rangle, \dots, \langle \eta_n, \xi \rangle, \langle \eta_1, \xi \rangle, \dots, \langle \eta_n, \xi \rangle), \end{aligned}$$

from which the claimed relation follows. \square

Recall that the definition of Morse homology for a pair (f, g) of a Morse function and a Riemannian metric requires Morse–Smale transversality, meaning that all (un)stable manifolds $W_x^u(f, g)$, $W_y^s(f, g)$ intersect transversely. It is a standard fact that for a fixed Morse function, a generic choice of Riemannian metric yields a Morse–Smale pair, see e.g. Proposition 5.8 in [20]. In our situation, we are

constrained by the fact that we want not only the Morse function, but also the Riemannian metric to be τ -invariant, such as to fully exploit the symmetry. However, the standard result stays true:

Proposition 3.2. *Let $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a τ -invariant Morse function. There exists a second category subset of the space \mathcal{G}^τ of τ -invariant Riemannian metrics on X such that for every g in this subset the pair (f, g) is Morse-Smale.*

The proof is almost identical to the proof of the statement without the invariance condition. The only point where a bit of caution is necessary is when local perturbations of the metric along negative gradient flow lines have to be extended to global τ -invariant perturbations. But this poses no problem, basically because if γ is such a flow line, we either have $\text{im } \gamma \subset R$ or $\text{im } \gamma \cap \text{im } \tau \circ \gamma = \emptyset$, as a consequence of the fact that both f and g are τ -invariant. (See also Proposition 7.1 in this paper and its proof.)

Lemma 3.3. *Let $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a τ -invariant Morse function and g a τ -invariant metric on X such that (f, g) is Morse-Smale. Then the restricted pair $(f|_R, g|_R)$ is also Morse-Smale.*

Proof. The invariance implies that $-\nabla f$ is tangent to R . Thus the flow of $-\nabla f|_R$ is simply the restriction of the flow of $-\nabla f$ to R , and the invariant manifolds are related by $W_x^*(f|_R) = W_x^*(f) \cap R$, for $x \in \text{Crit } f \cap R$. Given some $p \in R$, any subspace $V \subset T_p X$ with $\tau V = V$ decomposes as $V = V^+ \oplus V^-$, with $V^\pm := (\text{id} \pm D\tau)V$ denoting its τ -invariant respectively τ -anti-invariant subspace, which are both of the same dimension $\frac{1}{2} \dim V$. Now $T_p W_x^*(f|_R) = T_p(W_x^*(f) \cap R)$ is clearly contained in $(T_p W_x^*(f))^+ = T_p W_x^*(f) \cap T_p R$, but since both have dimension $\frac{1}{2} \dim W_x^*(f)$, we actually have $T_p W_x^*(f|_R) = (T_p W_x^*(f))^+$. (In other words, all $W_x^*(f)$ intersect R cleanly).

Now (f, g) being Morse-Smale means that $T_p W_x^u(f) + T_p W_y^s(f) = T_p X$ at every $p \in W_x^u(f) \cap W_y^s(f)$. With the above decomposition, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} T_p R &= (T_p X)^+ \\ &= (T_p W_x^u(f))^+ + (T_p W_y^s(f))^+ \\ &= T_p(W_x^u(f|_R)) + T_p(W_y^s(f|_R)), \end{aligned}$$

i.e. $W_x^u(f|_R)$ and $W_y^s(f|_R)$, viewed as submanifolds of R , intersect transversely at p . Hence $(f|_R, g|_R)$ is Morse-Smale, too. \square

3.2. The \mathbb{Z}_2 -homology ring of R . We now fix a function $f_\xi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and a τ -invariant Riemannian metric g such that (f_ξ, g) and hence also $(f_\xi|_R, g|_R)$ are Morse-Smale. In this subsection we prove:

Proposition 3.4. *The map $\text{Crit } f_\xi|_R \rightarrow \text{Crit } f_\xi$, $x \mapsto x$, induces a canonical ring isomorphism*

$$H(R; \mathbb{Z}_2) \rightarrow H(X; \mathbb{Z}_2)$$

which doubles the degree, i.e. it takes $H_(R; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ to $H_{2*}(X; \mathbb{Z}_2)$.*

This proposition already lets us infer some information about the quantum homology of R . Since $H(X; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ is generated by $H_{2n-2}(X; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ as a ring, it shows that $H_*(R; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ is generated by $H_{n-1}(R; \mathbb{Z}_2)$. Under the assumption $N_R \geq 2$ on the minimal Maslov number (which we need to assume anyway), this together with Proposition 6.1.1 in [6] implies:

Corollary 3.5. *The Λ_R -wide/narrow dichotomy holds for R , i.e. $QH(R; \Lambda_R)$ either vanishes or is isomorphic to $H(R; \mathbb{Z}_2) \otimes \Lambda_R$ as a Λ_R -module.*

The proof of Proposition 3.4 will occupy the rest of this section. We first concentrate on proving that the described map induces an isomorphism of \mathbb{Z}_2 -vector spaces. The main ingredient is the following statement.

Lemma 3.6. *The rank of the total homology $H(R; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ is equal to the number of critical points of $f_\xi|_R$, i.e. $f_\xi|_R$ is a perfect Morse function.*

This is a special case of a more general result due to Duistermaat, Theorem 3.1 in [13]. We include the proof for the convenience of the reader, following [13] closely.

Proof of Lemma 3.6. Assume without loss of generality that $\xi \in \mathfrak{q}$ is chosen such that $t \mapsto \exp t\xi$ is periodic, which is the case for a dense subset of \mathfrak{q} . Furthermore normalize ξ such that $\exp \xi = 1 \in Q$.

From the relation between τ and the torus action, $\tau \circ q = q^{-1} \circ \tau$ for $q \in Q$, we obtain

$$\tau(\exp(t\xi) \cdot x) = \exp(-t\xi) \cdot x$$

for $x \in R = \text{Fix } \tau$. It follows that the “half-turn map” $\exp(\frac{1}{2}\xi) = \exp(-\frac{1}{2}\xi)$ defines an involution of R , whose fixed point set we denote by $R_{(1)}$. It is clear that $R_{(1)}$ contains the critical set of $f_\xi|_R$ (the fixed point set of the Q -action), but it might be strictly bigger. Therefore, we set more generally

$$R_{(k)} := \{x \in R_{(k-1)} \mid \exp(2^{-k}\xi) \cdot x = x\}$$

for $k \geq 1$. This defines a decreasing sequence of submanifolds of R which eventually stabilizes. Since $x \in R_{(\ell)}$ for all ℓ implies $df_\xi(x) = 0$, we see that in fact we have $R_{(\ell)} = \text{Crit } f_\xi|_R$ for all sufficiently large ℓ .

Now each $R_{(\ell)}$ is the fixed point set of an involution of $R_{(\ell-1)}$. It was shown by Floyd [14] as an application of Smith theory (see e.g. Section III.3 in [9]) that if M is a compact manifold and N the fixed point set of a periodic map $M \rightarrow M$ of prime period p , then $\dim H(M; \mathbb{Z}_p) \geq \dim H(N; \mathbb{Z}_p)$ (the inequality does not necessarily hold in individual degrees). As a consequence, we obtain

$$\dim H(R; \mathbb{Z}_2) \geq \dim H(R_{(1)}; \mathbb{Z}_2) \geq \cdots \geq \dim H(\text{Crit } f_\xi|_R; \mathbb{Z}_2).$$

Since the function $f_\xi|_R$ is Morse, the right-hand side is simply the number of its critical points. But this is $\geq \dim H(R; \mathbb{Z}_2)$, which concludes the proof. \square

Since we know that f_ξ is a perfect Morse function for X , this lemma together with Lemma 3.1 allows to conclude that the map described in Proposition 3.4 induces an isomorphism $H(R; \mathbb{Z}_2) \cong H(X; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ of vector spaces.

We next argue that the isomorphism preserves the ring structure, i.e. is compatible with the intersection product on both sides. Recall first that in order to define the intersection product Morse homologically, one has to work with two different Morse functions f, f' and a metric g satisfying a version of Morse–Smale transversality. The product is then induced by the map

$$\mathbb{Z}_2\langle \text{Crit } f \rangle \otimes \mathbb{Z}_2\langle \text{Crit } f' \rangle \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_2\langle \text{Crit } f \rangle, \quad x \otimes y \mapsto \sum \langle x * y, z \rangle z,$$

where the sum runs over all $z \in \text{Crit } f'$ such that $|x| + |y| - |z| = n$ and the coefficient $\langle x * y, z \rangle \in \mathbb{Z}_2$ counts element of the moduli space $\mathcal{Y}(x, y, z; f, f')$, whose elements are configurations consisting of a flow line of $-\nabla f$ from x to z which is hit by a flow line of $-\nabla f'$ emanating from y .

In our particular case, we work again with τ -invariant Morse functions having all their critical points on R . While it is tempting to choose $f = f_\xi$ and $f' = f_{\xi'}$ for certain $\xi, \xi' \in \mathfrak{q}$, this would be problematic because the critical sets of these coincide, which obstructs the general position requirement. An easy solution to this is to choose instead a small perturbation $f' = \tilde{f}_{\xi'}$ obtained from $f_{\xi'}$ by pushing the critical points slightly off their original position via a τ -equivariant diffeomorphism supported on a small neighborhood of the critical set. An argument similar to the (omitted) proof of Proposition 3.2 shows that Morse–Smale transversality holds for an “even more generic” τ -invariant metric g . With these choices, τ induces an involution

$$\tau_* : \mathcal{Y}(x, y, z; f_\xi, \tilde{f}_{\xi'}) \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}(x, y, z; f_\xi, \tilde{f}_{\xi'})$$

on the moduli spaces used to compute the intersection product on $H(X; \mathbb{Z}_2)$, and the fixed points of τ_* are precisely those configurations which are contained in R . All configurations which are *not* entirely contained in R occur in pairs, so that

$$\#_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \mathcal{Y}(x, y, z; f_\xi, \tilde{f}_{\xi'}) = \#_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \mathcal{Y}(x, y, z; f_\xi|_R, \tilde{f}_{\xi'}|_R).$$

Because the moduli space on the right-hand side contains precisely those configurations counted for the intersection product on $H(R; \mathbb{Z}_2)$, this finishes the proof of the statement about the ring structure and hence of Proposition 3.4. \square

4. REAL DISCS AND THEIR DOUBLES

In this section we study the holomorphic curves that enter in the definition of the quantum invariants of R and X , where holomorphic is always understood with respect to the standard integrable complex structure J_0 .

Definition 4.1. A *real disc* is a holomorphic map $u : (D^2, \partial D^2) \rightarrow (X, R)$, where $D^2 \subset \mathbb{C}$ denotes the closed unit disc. A *real rational curve* is a holomorphic map $v : \mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow X$ such that $\tau \circ v \circ c = v$, with $c : \mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^1$ denoting complex conjugation.

The τ -anti-invariance of J_0 implies that for every real disc u , the disc

$$\bar{u} : (D^2, \partial D^2) \rightarrow (X, R), \quad z \mapsto \tau(u(\bar{z})),$$

obtained by Schwarz reflection is again holomorphic. Gluing the discs u and \bar{u} along their common boundary yields a holomorphic sphere

$$u^\sharp : \mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow X$$

which we refer to as the *double* of u . In the usual identification of D^2 with the extended upper half-plane $\mathbb{H} \cup \{\infty\} \subset \mathbb{C}P^1$, the double is given by

$$u^\sharp(z) = \begin{cases} u(z), & z \in \mathbb{H} \cup \{\infty\}, \\ \tau(u(\bar{z})), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The main point of this section is to provide a representation of real discs and their doubles in toric homogeneous coordinates which will be used for proving the regularity of J_0 for these curves in Section 5. This strategy is very similar to what Cho and Oh did for discs with boundary on a torus fibre and was actually inspired by their work [10].

4.1. Lifting real discs and their doubles. Recall that we constructed the toric manifold X as a quotient of an open set $\mathcal{U} \subset \mathbb{C}^N$ by some torus action. It is not difficult to see that any real disc u can be lifted holomorphically to \mathcal{U} , i.e. that there exists a holomorphic map w such that the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & (\mathbb{C}^N, \pi^{-1}(R)) & \\ & \uparrow w & \downarrow \pi \\ (D^2, \partial D^2) & \xrightarrow{u} & (X, R) \end{array}$$

commutes. For the purpose of our transversality proof we would ideally like such a lift to take boundary values in some totally real submanifold of \mathbb{C}^N which projects to R under $\pi : \mathcal{U} \rightarrow X$ and whose tangent bundle we understand. In our case the obvious candidate for this submanifold would be \mathbb{R}^N , but for a non-constant u it is not possible to find a holomorphic lift satisfying $w(\partial D^2) \subset \mathbb{R}^N$ by Liouville's theorem. In this respect our situation is somewhat different from that considered by Cho and Oh in [10], who could lift discs with boundary on a torus fibre such that the boundary was mapped to a totally real torus in \mathbb{C}^N .

Our solution to this problem is to take out a boundary point and lift only the restriction of u to $\mathbb{H} \subset D^2$, or equivalently the restriction of the double u^\sharp to $\mathbb{C} \subset \mathbb{C}P^1$. It will turn out that this is sufficient for a transversality proof similar to Cho and Oh's to work.

Proposition 4.2. *Let $u : (D^2, \partial D^2) \rightarrow (X, R)$ be a real disc and let $u^\sharp : \mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow X$ be its double. The restriction of u^\sharp to $\mathbb{C} \subset \mathbb{C}P^1$ admits a lift*

$$w = (w_1, \dots, w_N) : (\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^N, \mathbb{R}^N),$$

where the $w_i : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ are holomorphic functions of the form

$$w_i(z) = a_i \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_i} (z - p_{i,j})(z - \bar{p}_{i,j}) \cdot \prod_{k=1}^{\beta_i} (z - q_{i,j}),$$

with constants $a_i \in \mathbb{R}$, integers $\alpha_i, \beta_i \geq 0$, and points $p_{i,j} \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$, $q_{i,j} \in \mathbb{R}$.

Proof. We start with an arbitrary holomorphic lift

$$w = (w_1, \dots, w_N) : (\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^N, \pi^{-1}(R))$$

of the double $u^\sharp : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow X$, which exists because the pullback of the holomorphic principal $K_{\mathbb{C}}$ -bundle $\mathcal{U} \rightarrow X$ to \mathbb{C} by u^\sharp is holomorphically trivial (see e.g. [18]). Denote by $I_0 \subset [1, N]$ the set of all i such that $u(D^2)$ is contained in the hypersurface D_i , and set $\overline{I_0} := [1, N] \setminus I_0$. For $i \in \overline{I_0}$, u^\sharp hits D_i at only finitely many points, and hence w_i has only finitely many zeros. Clearly, the set of zeros of w_i is invariant under complex conjugation by the τ -invariance of u^\sharp . Denote by $p_{i,1}, \overline{p_{i,1}}, \dots, p_{i,\alpha_i}, \overline{p_{i,\alpha_i}}$ the zeros of w_i in $\mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}$, and by $q_{i,1}, \dots, q_{i,\beta_i}$ those in \mathbb{R} . In both cases, a zero with multiplicity m is treated as m zeros.

Now define a new holomorphic map

$$w' = (w'_1, \dots, w'_N) : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^N$$

by setting

$$w'_i(z) := \frac{w_i(z)}{\chi_i(z)}$$

with $\chi_i(z) := \prod_{j=1}^{\alpha_i} (z - p_{i,j})(z - \overline{p_{i,j}}) \cdot \prod_{j=1}^{\beta_i} (z - q_{i,j})$. Finally set

$$u' := \pi \circ w' : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow X.$$

Claim. $u' : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow X$ is constant with image in R .

It is easy to see that u' extends over ∞ to a holomorphic map $u' : \mathbb{CP}^1 \rightarrow X$, using e.g. the projective embedding $\Psi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^L$ described in Section 2. Notice that ∞ is the only point where this extension can possibly meet any of the hypersurfaces D_i , $i \in \overline{I_0}$, because for those i the corresponding $w'_i : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ are nowhere-vanishing. It follows that all the D_i with $u'(\mathbb{CP}^1) \cap D_i \neq \emptyset$, including those with $i \in I_0$, intersect at $u'(\infty)$. In particular, this intersection is non-empty, and thus the cone σ generated by the corresponding normal vectors v_i of Δ is contained in the normal fan of Δ . Let $\sigma' \in \Sigma^{(n)}$ be an n -dimensional cone containing σ as a face. Hence $u'(\mathbb{CP}^1)$ is entirely contained in the set $V_{\sigma'}$, which by Lemma 2.6 is biholomorphic to \mathbb{C}^n . So u' is constant by Liouville's theorem, and the fact that all χ_j send real numbers to real numbers implies that the image of u' actually lies in R . This proves the claim.

To conclude the proof of the proposition, note that we may assume that also the lift w' of u' is constant (otherwise w' is of the form $w'(z) = w''(z) \cdot w'(0)$ with w'' taking values in $K_{\mathbb{C}}$, in which case we can replace the original w by $(w'')^{-1} \cdot w$), and consequently the image of w' is a point in $\pi^{-1}(R)$. By eventually acting with some element of $K_{\mathbb{C}}$, we may further assume that this point actually lies in \mathbb{R}^N . Recalling the way w' and w are related shows that w is of the claimed form. \square

4.2. Reading off the Maslov index. As for the relationship between the Maslov index $\mu(u)$ of a real disc and the first Chern class $c_1(u^\sharp)$ of its double, we have

$$\begin{aligned} c_1(u^\sharp) &= \frac{1}{2}(\mu(u) + \mu(\overline{u})) \\ &= \mu(u). \end{aligned}$$

The first equality is well-known, and the second follows from $\mu(u) = \mu(\bar{u})$. Given that $c_1(X)$ is Poincaré dual to $[D_1] + \dots + [D_N]$, we conclude that the Maslov index of u is equal to the intersection number of u^\sharp with the toric divisors. In case u is not entirely contained in any D_i and hence intersects each of them only a finite number of times, this number is simply

$$\mu(u) = \sum_{i=1}^N \# \{ \text{zeros of } w_i \}$$

where the w_i are the components of any holomorphic lift $w : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^N$ of u^\sharp , counting with multiplicities. We assume here that $u(\infty)$ is not contained in any D_i , so that all intersection points of u with the D_i correspond to zeros of the w_i .

If u is entirely contained in some D_i , or equivalently w_i vanishes identically, one has to represent $[D_i]$ by a linear combination of those $[D_j]$ for which u is not contained in D_j in order to determine the intersection number of u^\sharp with $[D_i]$.

This results in the following general recipe for writing the Maslov index in terms of a weighted count of the numbers of isolated zeros of the components of w . As in the proof of Proposition 4.2 we denote by $I_0 = \{i_1, \dots, i_\ell\}$ the set of those $i \in [1, N]$ such that $u(D^2)$ is contained in D_i and set $\bar{I}_0 := [1, N] \setminus I_0$. Moreover, we assume that $u(\infty) \notin \bigcup_{i \in \bar{I}_0} D_i$, which can be arranged using a suitable reparametrisation. Observe now that $\bigcap_{i \in I_0} D_i \neq \emptyset$ because $u(D^2)$ is contained in the intersection. It follows that the $v_{i_1}, \dots, v_{i_\ell}$ generate a cone in Σ , and so they can be extended to a \mathbb{Z} -basis of \mathbb{Z}^n . Fixing any such basis, we denote by $\varepsilon_{i_1}, \dots, \varepsilon_{i_\ell} \in (\mathbb{Z}^n)^*$ those elements of the corresponding dual basis of $(\mathbb{Z}^n)^*$ which are dual to the $v_{i_1}, \dots, v_{i_\ell}$, i.e. $\langle \varepsilon_{i_j}, v_{i_k} \rangle = \delta_{jk}$ for $j, k = 1, \dots, \ell$.

Proposition 4.3. *The Maslov index of u can be expressed as*

$$\mu(u) = \sum_{j \in \bar{I}_0} \left(1 - \sum_{i \in I_0} \langle \varepsilon_i, v_j \rangle \right) (2\alpha_j + \beta_j),$$

where the α_i, β_i are as in Proposition 4.2.

Proof. By the description of $H(X; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ as given in Section 2, the identity

$$\sum_{j=1}^N \langle \varepsilon_i, v_j \rangle [D_j] = 0$$

in $H_{2n-2}(X; \mathbb{Z}_2)$ holds for all $i \in I_0$. The choice of the ε_i implies that

$$[D_i] = - \sum_{j \in \bar{I}_0} \langle \varepsilon_i, v_j \rangle [D_j]$$

for all $i \in I_0$. Since $c_1(X)$ is Poincaré dual to $[D_1] + \dots + [D_N]$, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} c_1(X) &= PD \left(\sum_{i \in I_0} \left(- \sum_{j \in \bar{I}_0} \langle \varepsilon_i, v_j \rangle [D_j] \right) + \sum_{j \in \bar{I}_0} [D_j] \right) \\ &= PD \left(\sum_{j \in \bar{I}_0} \left(1 - \sum_{i \in I_0} \langle \varepsilon_i, v_j \rangle \right) [D_j] \right), \end{aligned}$$

which implies the formula claimed for $\mu(u)$. \square

Example. We include a baby example to illustrate how reading off the Maslov index works. Consider the fan Σ in \mathbb{R}^2 whose 1-dimensional cones are generated by

$$v_1 = (1, 0), v_2 = (0, 1), v_3 = (-1, -1), v_4 = (0, -1).$$

The corresponding toric manifold is $X = \mathbb{C}P^2 \# \overline{\mathbb{C}P^2}$, a toric one-point blow-up of $\mathbb{C}P^2$. Observe that we have $[z_1 : z_2 : z_3 : z_4] = [tz_1, stz_2, tz_3, sz_4]$ for $(s, t) \in T_{\mathbb{C}}^2$ because the map $\pi : \mathbb{Z}^4 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^2$, $e_i \mapsto v_i$, has kernel $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{Z}\langle(0, 1, 0, 1), (1, 1, 1, 0)\rangle$. Consider now the real rational curve u whose restriction to \mathbb{H} is given by

$$u(z) = [z : 1 : 1 : 0],$$

or equivalently, whose lift to \mathbb{C}^2 is $w(z) = (z, 1, 1, 0)$. It sweeps out one half of the divisor D_4 . For $z \neq 0$ we can write $u(z) = [1 : 1 : z^{-1} : 0]$ by acting with $(1, z^{-1}) \in T_{\mathbb{C}}^2$, and hence u intersects D_3 at ∞ . To move this intersection away from ∞ , we reparametrise u using the element $\phi \in \text{Aut}(D^2)$, $z \mapsto \frac{z}{z-1}$, such as to obtain the new real disc

$$u'(z) = [\frac{z}{z-1} : 1 : 1 : 0] = [z : 1 : z - 1 : 0],$$

which has the form required for the formula of Proposition 4.3 to be applicable. We have $I_0 = \{4\}$, $\alpha_i = 0$ for all i , $\beta_1 = \beta_3 = 1$ and $\beta_2 = 0$. Choosing e.g. the vector $(1, 1)$ to extend $v_4 = (0, -1)$ to a basis of \mathbb{Z}^2 , the required element of the dual basis is $\varepsilon_4 = (1, -1)$, where we identify $(\mathbb{Z}^2)^*$ with \mathbb{Z}^2 in the usual way. With $\langle \varepsilon_4, v_1 \rangle = 1$ and $\langle \varepsilon_4, v_3 \rangle = 0$ we obtain

$$\mu(u) = \mu(u') = (1 - \langle \varepsilon_4, v_1 \rangle)\beta_1 + (1 - \langle \varepsilon_4, v_3 \rangle)\beta_3 = 1$$

as expected, because D_4 is the exceptional divisor.²

5. REGULARITY OF THE STANDARD COMPLEX STRUCTURE

In this section we will prove the following theorem.

Theorem 5.1. *The standard complex structure J_0 is regular for all holomorphic real discs $u : (D^2, \partial D^2) \rightarrow (X, R)$ and all holomorphic spheres $v : \mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow X$.*

The proof is similar to Cho and Oh's regularity proof in [10]. We will give full details only for the statement about discs, and then sketch the essentially identical proof for the sphere case in the last subsection.

5.1. Reformulating the problem. Recall that Fredholm regularity of J_0 for u means that the linearisation $D_u \bar{\partial}_{J_0}$ of the operator $\bar{\partial}_{J_0}$ at u is surjective. Here we view $\bar{\partial}_{J_0}$ as a section in a suitable Banach manifold setting. In our case, this linearisation is an operator

$$D_u \bar{\partial}_{J_0} : W^{1,p}(u^*TX, u^*TR) \rightarrow L^p(\Lambda^{0,1}T^*D \otimes u^*TX)$$

²In particular we have $C_X = 1$, so that our main theorem is not applicable to X .

for some $p > 2$, whose restriction to smooth³ sections is the standard Dolbeault operator

$$\bar{\partial} : C^\infty(u^*TX, u^*TR) \rightarrow \Omega^{0,1}(u^*TX).$$

Since we know that $D_u \bar{\partial}_{J_0}$ is Fredholm by general theory and because smooth sections are dense, it suffices to show that $\bar{\partial}$ is surjective, i.e.

$$\text{coker } \bar{\partial} = 0.$$

This is equivalent to the vanishing of a certain sheaf cohomology group. To first discuss this in general terms, let (E, F) be a holomorphic *bundle pair* over $(D^2, \partial D^2)$, that is, let E be a holomorphic vector bundle over D^2 and let F be a totally real subbundle over ∂D^2 . Denote by $\mathcal{O}(E, F)$ the sheaf of holomorphic sections of E taking boundary values in F , by $\mathcal{A}^0(E, F)$ the sheaf of smooth sections of E taking boundary values in F , and by $\mathcal{A}^{(0,1)}(E)$ the sheaf of smooth E -valued $(0,1)$ -forms. The latter two are fine sheaves, i.e. they admit partitions of unity.

Proposition 5.2. *The sequence of sheaves $\mathcal{A}^0(E, F) \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}} \mathcal{A}^{(0,1)}(E) \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow \dots$ is a fine resolution of $\mathcal{O}(E, F)$.*

This is proved (for arbitrary Riemann surfaces with boundary) e.g. in [21]. It follows that the sheaf cohomology groups of $\mathcal{O}(E, F)$, which are by definition the right derived functors of the global section functor applied to $\mathcal{O}(E, F)$, satisfy

$$H^*(D^2; \mathcal{O}(E, F)) = \begin{cases} \ker \bar{\partial}, & * = 0 \\ \text{coker } \bar{\partial}, & * = 1 \\ 0, & * \geq 2. \end{cases}$$

The idea for our specific problem is to show $H^1(D; \mathcal{O}(E, F)) = 0$ for $(E, F) = (u^*TX, u^*TR)$ by exhibiting a suitable acyclic cover of D^2 and making use of the fact that sheaf cohomology groups can be computed as sheaf-valued Čech cohomology groups with respect to an acyclic cover.

5.2. An acyclic cover. By definition, *acyclicity* of a cover for a sheaf means that all higher cohomology groups (H^i with $i \geq 1$) of the sheaf restricted to arbitrary intersections of the covering sets vanish. Consider the cover $\mathfrak{U} = \{U_0, U_1\}$ of D^2 with

$$U_i = D^2 \setminus \{z_i\},$$

where $z_0 = 0$ and $z_1 = \infty$, thinking of D^2 as the extended upper half-plane. The purpose of this subsection is to prove that \mathfrak{U} is acyclic for $\mathcal{O}(E, F)$, i.e. that

$$H^1(U_0; \mathcal{O}(E, F)) = H^1(U_1; \mathcal{O}(E, F)) = H^1(U_0 \cap U_1; \mathcal{O}(E, F)) = 0.$$

As both U_i are biholomorphic to the upper half-plane, in the following we simply write \mathbb{H} to represent either of them. Moreover, we write \mathbb{H}^* for $U_0 \cap U_1$.

³Here and in the following “smooth” means “smooth in the interior and all derivatives continuous up to the boundary”.

Let $w : (\mathbb{H}, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^N, \mathbb{R}^N)$ be a lift of $u|_{\mathbb{H}}$, which exists by Proposition 4.2, and consider the following bundle pairs over (\mathbb{H}, \mathbb{R}) :

$$\begin{aligned} (E_K, F_K) &:= (w^*(T\text{Orb}_{K_{\mathbb{C}}}), w^*(T\text{Orb}_{K_{\mathbb{C}}} \cap \mathbb{R}^N)), \\ (\tilde{E}, \tilde{F}) &:= (w^*\mathbb{C}^N, w^*\mathbb{R}^N), \\ (E, F) &:= (u^*TX, u^*TR). \end{aligned}$$

Here $T\text{Orb}_{K_{\mathbb{C}}}$ denotes the subbundle of $T\mathbb{C}^N$ whose fibre at $z \in \mathbb{C}^N$ is the tangent space of the $K_{\mathbb{C}}$ -orbit through z . The following statement is proven in exactly the same way as Lemma 6.3 in [10].

Lemma 5.3. *The natural sequence of sheaves*

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(E_K, F_K) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(\tilde{E}, \tilde{F}) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(E, F) \rightarrow 0$$

is exact.

This implies that there exists a long exact sequence in cohomology of the form

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow H^0(\mathbb{H}; \mathcal{O}(E_K, F_K)) &\rightarrow H^0(\mathbb{H}; \mathcal{O}(\tilde{E}, \tilde{F})) \rightarrow H^0(\mathbb{H}; \mathcal{O}(E, F)) \\ &\rightarrow H^1(\mathbb{H}; \mathcal{O}(E_K, F_K)) \rightarrow H^1(\mathbb{H}; \mathcal{O}(\tilde{E}, \tilde{F})) \rightarrow H^1(\mathbb{H}; \mathcal{O}(E, F)) \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

The sequence stays exact when \mathbb{H} is replaced by the open subset \mathbb{H}^* . To show $H^1(\mathbb{H}; \mathcal{O}(E, F)) = H^1(\mathbb{H}^*; \mathcal{O}(E, F)) = 0$ and thus the acyclicity of \mathfrak{U} , it is hence sufficient to show

$$H^1(\mathbb{H}; \mathcal{O}(\tilde{E}, \tilde{F})) = H^1(\mathbb{H}^*; \mathcal{O}(\tilde{E}, \tilde{F})) = 0.$$

Since $(\tilde{E}, \tilde{F}) = (\mathbb{H} \times \mathbb{C}^N, \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}^N)$ is the trivial bundle with a trivial totally real subbundle, this follows from the next proposition.

Proposition 5.4. *Given a smooth function $g : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $g(\mathbb{R}) \subset \mathbb{R}$, there exists a smooth function $f : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ satisfying $\bar{\partial}f = g$ and $f(\mathbb{R}) \subset \mathbb{R}$.*

We include (parts of) the proof for the convenience of the reader, essentially reproducing the proof of Theorem 1.11 in [19].

Proof. For compactly supported functions g the statement is a rather well-known result from complex analysis.

Suppose now that g is not compactly supported. For $n \in \mathbb{N}$, let $B_n := \{z \in \mathbb{H} \mid |z| < n\}$ be the open half-disc of radius n , let ρ_n be a cut-off function with $\rho_n \equiv 1$ on $\overline{B_n}$, $\text{supp } \rho_n \subset B_{n+1}$ and let $g_n := \rho_n \cdot g$. We will construct a sequence of smooth functions $f_n : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that

- (i) $\bar{\partial}f_n = g$ in B_n ,
- (ii) $f_n(\mathbb{R}) \subset \mathbb{R}$,
- (iii) $|f_{n+1}(z) - f_n(z)| \leq 2^{-n}$ for all $z \in \overline{B_{n-1}}$.

Suppose that functions f_1, \dots, f_n satisfying these conditions have been constructed. To define f_{n+1} , start with a function $\varphi : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ solving $\bar{\partial}\varphi = g_{n+1}$ and $\varphi(\mathbb{R}) \subset \mathbb{R}$, which exists because g_{n+1} has compact support. The function $\varphi - f_n$ is holomorphic on B_n and satisfies $(\varphi - f_n)(\mathbb{R}) \subset \mathbb{R}$; by truncating its power series expansion around 0 at a sufficiently high power, we obtain a polynomial ψ which is holomorphic on

B_{n+1} , satisfies $\psi(\mathbb{R}) \subset \mathbb{R}$, and $|\varphi(z) - f_n(z) - \psi(z)| < 2^{-n}$ for all $z \in \overline{B_{n-1}}$. Then we define

$$f_{n+1} := \varphi - \psi$$

and note that it has the required properties.

As for the convergence of this sequence of functions, observe that all f_m with $m \geq n$ satisfy $\bar{\partial}f_m = g$ on B_n . We can hence write

$$f_m(z) = f_n(z) + \sum_{j=n+1}^m f_j(z) - f_{j-1}(z)$$

for $z \in B_n$. Since all $f_j - f_{j-1}$ in the sum are holomorphic on B_n and because of the uniform bounds they satisfy on $\overline{B_{n-1}}$, the sum converges for $m \rightarrow \infty$ to a function which is holomorphic on B_n and takes \mathbb{R} to \mathbb{R} . Since this is true for every n , it follows that the f_m converge for $m \rightarrow \infty$, uniformly on compact sets, to a function $f : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ satisfying $\bar{\partial}f = g$ and $f(\mathbb{R}) \subset \mathbb{R}$. \square

5.3. A Čech cohomology computation. In this section we finish the proof of

$$H^1(D^2; \mathcal{O}(E, F)) = 0$$

and hence of Theorem 5.1. We make use of the following classical theorem:

Theorem 5.5 (Leray). *Let X be a topological space, \mathcal{S} a sheaf on X , and let $\mathfrak{U} = \{U_i\}_{i \in I}$ be a countable cover of X which is acyclic with respect to \mathcal{S} . Then*

$$H^*(X; \mathcal{S}) \cong \check{H}^*(\mathfrak{U}; \mathcal{S}).$$

Here $H^*(X; \mathcal{S})$ denotes the sheaf cohomology of \mathcal{S} in the sense of “right derived functor of the global section functor”, and $\check{H}^*(\mathfrak{U}; \mathcal{S})$ denotes Čech cohomology with respect to the cover \mathfrak{U} with values in \mathcal{S} . So we are done if we can show

$$\check{H}^1(\mathfrak{U}; \mathcal{O}(E, F)) = 0$$

for the acyclic cover $\mathfrak{U} = \{U_0, U_1\}$ from the previous subsection. That is, we have to show that every Čech 1-cocycle is a coboundary. Since our cover consists of only two sets, a 1-cocycle is simply a section σ of $\mathcal{O}(E, F)$ over $U_0 \cap U_1 = \mathbb{H}^*$, and for σ to be a coboundary means that there exist sections η_0, η_1 over U_0, U_1 such that

$$\sigma = \eta_0|_{U_0 \cap U_1} + \eta_1|_{U_0 \cap U_1}. \quad (1)$$

In other words, all we have to show is the following claim.

Claim. *Any section σ of $\mathcal{O}(E, F)$ over \mathbb{H}^* decomposes as*

$$\sigma = \eta_0 + \eta_1$$

with sections η_i over \mathbb{H}^ such that η_0 extends over 0 and η_1 extends over ∞ .*

Proof of the Claim, Step 1. Fix a lift $w : (\mathbb{H}, \mathbb{R}) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^N, \mathbb{R}^N)$ of the restriction of u to $U_0 = \mathbb{H}$, and denote by w also the restriction to \mathbb{H}^* . Let (E_K, F_K) , (\tilde{E}, \tilde{F}) , (E, F) be the corresponding bundle pairs over \mathbb{H} , \mathbb{H}^* as in the last subsection. We

claim that σ lifts to a section $\tilde{\sigma}$ of the trivial bundle pair (\tilde{E}, \tilde{F}) over \mathbb{H}^* . In other words, we claim the map

$$H^0(\mathbb{H}^*; \mathcal{O}(\tilde{E}, \tilde{F})) \rightarrow H^0(\mathbb{H}^*; \mathcal{O}(E, F)),$$

induced by the sequence of sheaves in Lemma 5.3 is surjective, which in view of the long exact sequence is equivalent to saying that

$$H^1(\mathbb{H}^*; \mathcal{O}(E_K, F_K)) = 0.$$

That this is indeed the case follows from the next lemma and Proposition 5.4 (which also holds when \mathbb{H} is replaced by \mathbb{H}^*).

Lemma 5.6. *The bundle pair $(E_K, F_K) = (w^*(T\text{Orb}_{K_{\mathbb{C}}}), w^*(T\text{Orb}_{K_{\mathbb{C}}} \cap \mathbb{R}^N))$ is holomorphically trivial.*

Proof. Let $z \in \mathcal{U} \subset \mathbb{C}^N$. Then we have

$$E_{K,z} = T_z \text{Orb}_{K_{\mathbb{C}}} = z \cdot T_{\underline{1}} \text{Orb}_{K_{\mathbb{C}}},$$

where the right-hand side denotes the subspace of $T_z \mathbb{C}^N \cong \mathbb{C}^N$ obtained by letting z act on the subspace $T_{\underline{1}} K_{\mathbb{C}}$ of $T_{\underline{1}} \mathbb{C}^N \cong \mathbb{C}^N$ in the usual way (i.e. $z \cdot (t_1, \dots, t_N) = (z_1 t_1, \dots, z_N t_N)$), and $\underline{1} := (1, \dots, 1) \in \mathbb{C}^N$. This follows directly from the fact that $K_{\mathbb{C}}$ acts freely on \mathcal{U} , which is equivalent to saying that the map $K_{\mathbb{C}} \ni t \mapsto z \cdot t$ is a diffeomorphism onto its image. For $z \in \mathcal{U} \cap \mathbb{R}^N$ the same argument shows

$$F_{K,z} = (T_z \text{Orb}_{K_{\mathbb{C}}}) \cap \mathbb{R}^N = z \cdot (T_{\underline{1}} \text{Orb}_{K_{\mathbb{C}}} \cap \mathbb{R}^N).$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{H} \times T_{\underline{1}} \text{Orb}_{K_{\mathbb{C}}} &\rightarrow E_K, \\ (z, t) &\mapsto (z, w(z) \cdot t), \end{aligned}$$

is a holomorphic trivialization of E_K identifying F_K with a constant totally real subbundle. \square

Proof of the Claim, Step 2. Since (\tilde{E}, \tilde{F}) is the trivial bundle pair $(\mathbb{H}^* \times \mathbb{C}^N, \mathbb{H}^* \times \mathbb{R}^N)$, the lift $\tilde{\sigma}$ can be written as $\tilde{\sigma} = (\tilde{\sigma}_1, \dots, \tilde{\sigma}_N)$, where each of the $\tilde{\sigma}_i : \mathbb{H}^* \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ admits a Laurent series expansion

$$\tilde{\sigma}_i(z) = \sum_{j=-\infty}^{\infty} a_{i,j} z^j$$

with coefficients $a_{i,j} \in \mathbb{R}$. We set

$$\tilde{\eta}_{0,i}(z) := \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} a_{i,j} z^j, \quad \tilde{\eta}_{1,i}(z) := \sum_{j=-\infty}^{-1} a_{i,j} z^j$$

for $i = 1, \dots, N$, then $\tilde{\eta}_0 := (\tilde{\eta}_{0,1}, \dots, \tilde{\eta}_{0,N})$, $\tilde{\eta}_1 := (\tilde{\eta}_{1,1}, \dots, \tilde{\eta}_{1,N})$, and finally

$$\eta_0(z) := D\pi|_{w(z)} \tilde{\eta}_0(z), \quad \eta_1(z) := D\pi|_{w(z)} \tilde{\eta}_1(z).$$

The η_i are sections of (E, F) over \mathbb{H}^* which satisfy (1) by construction. We still have to show that they extend in the required way, which by the removal of singularities theorem requires only to show that the limits $\eta_0(z)$ for $z \rightarrow 0$ and $\eta_1(z)$ for $z \rightarrow \infty$

exist. This is clear for η_0 , because for $z \rightarrow 0$ both $\tilde{\eta}_0(z)$ and $w(z)$ converge, the latter by the way w was chosen. As for η_1 , the problem is that while $\tilde{\eta}_1(z)$ converges to some $\tilde{\eta}_1(\infty)$, $w(z)$ does not converge for $z \rightarrow \infty$. Nevertheless, we are in good shape, as the following lemma shows.

Lemma 5.7. *$D\pi|_{w(z)}\tilde{\eta}_1(z)$ converges to $0 \in T_{u(\infty)}R$ for $z \rightarrow \infty$.*

Proof. We start by constructing a function $\theta : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow K_{\mathbb{C}}$ such that

$$\|\theta(z) \cdot w(z)\| < C$$

for some $C > 0$ and all $z \in \mathbb{H}$. To do so, choose first an element $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_N) \in \mathbb{K}$ such that all λ_i are > 0 . This is possible, since for every $i \in [1, N]$ the vector $-v_i$ lies in some cone $\sigma \in \Sigma$ by the completeness of Σ and can hence be expressed as a linear combination of the generators $v_{j_1}, \dots, v_{j_{m_i}}$ of σ with *non-negative* coefficients. In other words, we have $v_i + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} a_{j_k} v_{j_k} = 0$ for certain $a_{j_k} \geq 0$. Setting $\lambda^{(i)} := e_i + \sum_{k=1}^{m_i} a_{j_k} e_{j_k}$, where the e_i denote the elements of the standard basis of \mathbb{Z}^N , and finally $\lambda := \sum_{i=1}^N \lambda^{(i)}$ yields the required vector. Now define

$$\theta(z) := z^{-M\lambda} = (z^{-M\lambda_1}, \dots, z^{-M\lambda_N}),$$

with $M := \max_{i \in [1, N]} \deg w_i$ being the maximal degree occurring among the polynomials w_i .

By definition, we have $\pi = \pi \circ \theta(z)$ for every $z \in \mathbb{H}$, considering $\theta(z)$ as the map $\mathbb{C}^N \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^N$, $\xi \mapsto \theta(z) \cdot \xi$. It follows that

$$D\pi|_{w(z)} = D\pi|_{\theta(z) \cdot w(z)} \circ D\theta(z)|_{w(z)},$$

and hence

$$D\pi|_{w(z)}\tilde{\eta}_1(z) = (D\pi|_{\theta(z) \cdot w(z)} \circ D\theta(z)|_{w(z)})\tilde{\eta}_1(z).$$

Now $D\theta(z)|_{w(z)}$ converges to 0 for $z \rightarrow \infty$ by the decay property of τ . Moreover, since both $z \mapsto D\pi|_{\theta(z) \cdot w(z)}$ and $z \mapsto \tilde{\eta}_1(z)$ are bounded (the first because $\theta \cdot w$ only takes values in some compact subset of \mathbb{C}^N by the decay of θ , and the second because it converges), we get $D\pi|_{w(z)}\tilde{\eta}_1(z) \rightarrow 0$. \square

This completes the proof of the claim and hence of the disc part of Theorem 5.1.

5.4. Regularity for spheres. The proof of the sphere part of Theorem 5.1 follows the same pattern as that of the disc part. Let $v : \mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow X$ be an arbitrary holomorphic sphere. As in the disc case, proving regularity of J_0 at v amounts to showing that the Dolbeault operator $\bar{\partial} : C^\infty(v^*TX) \rightarrow \Omega^{0,1}(v^*TX)$ has coker $\bar{\partial} = 0$. By Proposition 5.2, which also holds for closed Riemann surfaces, this translates into $H^1(\mathbb{C}P^1; \mathcal{O}(v^*TX)) = 0$, where $\mathcal{O}(v^*TX)$ denotes the sheaf of holomorphic sections of v^*TX .

By arguments similar to the ones in the proof of Proposition 4.2, the restriction of v to any subset $\mathbb{C}P^1 \setminus \{\text{pt}\}$ admits a lift $w = (w_1, \dots, w_N)$ to \mathbb{C}^N with polynomial entries w_i . One obtains the exact sequence of sheaves

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(w^*(T\text{Orb}_{K_{\mathbb{C}}})) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(w^*\mathbb{C}^N) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}(v^*TX) \rightarrow 0,$$

and then deduces from the resulting long exact sequence in cohomology that the cover \mathfrak{V} of $\mathbb{C}P^1$ given by $V_0 = \mathbb{C}P^1 \setminus \{\infty\}$ and $V_1 = \mathbb{C}P^1 \setminus \{0\}$ is acyclic for $\mathcal{O}(v^*TX)$. The vanishing of $H^1(\mathbb{C}P^1; \mathcal{O}(v^*TX)) \cong \check{H}^1(\mathfrak{V}; \mathcal{O}(v^*TX))$ is then shown by the same Čech type argument as in the previous section: Given a holomorphic section σ of v^*TX over $V_0 \cap V_1$, lift it to a holomorphic section of the trivial bundle, decompose it using its Laurent expansion as $\sigma = \eta_0 + \eta_1$ such that η_0 extends over 0 and η_1 extends over ∞ , and then project back to v^*TX .

6. THE INVOLUTION ON THE MODULI SPACE OF REAL DISCS

Denote by $H_2^D(X, R)$ the image of the Hurewicz homomorphism $\pi_2(X, R) \rightarrow H_2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ and by \sim the equivalence relation on $H_2^D(X, R)$ given by identifying classes of the same Maslov number:

$$\lambda \sim \lambda' \quad :\Longleftrightarrow \quad \mu(\lambda) = \mu(\lambda').$$

Let $\widetilde{\mathcal{M}}(\lambda)$ be the moduli space of parametrised holomorphic discs $u : (D^2, \partial D^2) \rightarrow (X, R)$ representing the class $\lambda \in H_2^D(X, R)/\sim$. Then define the corresponding moduli space of unparametrised discs with two marked boundary points by

$$\mathcal{M}_2(\lambda) := \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}(\lambda)/\text{Aut}_{\pm 1}(D^2),$$

where $\text{Aut}_{\pm}(D^2)$ denotes the subgroup of $\text{Aut}(D^2)$ consisting of those automorphism which fix $\pm 1 \in \partial D^2$. Furthermore, set

$$\mathcal{M}_2 := \bigsqcup_{\lambda} \mathcal{M}_2(\lambda)$$

We commonly denote elements of \mathcal{M}_2 by the same name as their representatives, which should cause no confusion. Note that it makes sense to evaluate $u \in \mathcal{M}_2$ at the points ± 1 .

6.1. The involution τ_* and its fixed points. In this section we will study the involution

$$\begin{aligned} \tau_* : \mathcal{M}_2 &\rightarrow \mathcal{M}_2, \\ u &\mapsto \tau \circ u \circ c, \end{aligned}$$

where $c : D^2 \rightarrow D^2$ denotes complex conjugation. Its fixed point set was characterized by Fukaya–Oh–Ohta–Ono in [17] (which is part of the big FOOO preprint, but is not contained in the book version) in terms of another map

$$\mathfrak{D} : \mathcal{M}_2 \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_2.$$

We briefly describe its definition. Denote by $D_{\pm}^2 := \{z \in D^2 \mid \pm \text{Im } z \geq 0\}$ the upper respectively lower half-disc, and let $\rho_{\pm} : D_{\pm}^2 \rightarrow D^2$ be conformal isomorphisms satisfying $\rho_{-}(z) = \overline{\rho_{+}(\bar{z})}$. (In the upper half-plane model, in which D_{\pm}^2 correspond to $\mathbb{H}_{\pm} = \{z \in \mathbb{H} \mid \pm \text{Re } z \geq 0\}$, such maps are given by $\mathbb{H}_{\pm} \rightarrow \mathbb{H}$, $z \mapsto \pm z^2$.) Given a real disc $u \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}_2(\lambda)$, define a new real disc $u' \in \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}_2(\lambda - \tau_*\lambda) = \widetilde{\mathcal{M}}_2(2\lambda)$ by

$$\check{u} := \begin{cases} u(\rho_{-}(z)), & z \in D_{-}^2 \\ \tau(u(\overline{\rho_{+}(z)})), & z \in D_{+}^2. \end{cases}$$

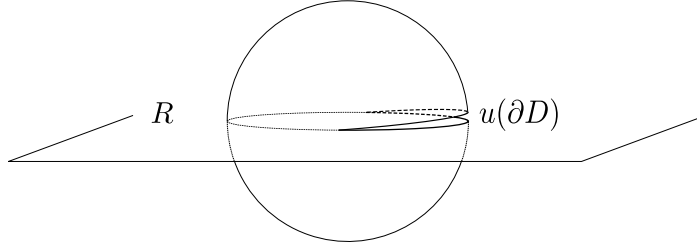


FIGURE 1. A Pac-Man disc

It is shown in [17] (Lemma 40.4) that \mathfrak{D} descends to a map $\mathfrak{D} : \mathcal{M}_2 \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_2$.

The fixed point set of τ_* is simply the image of \mathfrak{D} :

Lemma 6.1 (see Lemma 40.6 in [17]). *Given any $u \in \mathcal{M}_2$ which is fixed by τ_* , there exists some $u' \in \mathcal{M}_2$ such that $\mathfrak{D}u' = u$.*

The fixed points can be pictured as illustrated in Figure 1 (the mouth of the Pac-Man, which corresponds to ∂D^2 , should really be entirely closed).

6.2. A closer look at the fixed points. The restrictions of a real rational curve $v : \mathbb{CP}^1 \rightarrow X$ to the upper respectively lower hemispheres yield two real discs

$$v_{\pm} : (D^2, \partial D^2) \rightarrow (X, R),$$

which we call the *upper and lower halves* of v . In general the v_{\pm} are not distinct as elements of \mathcal{M}_2 .

Let now $u \in \mathcal{M}_2$ be a fixed point of τ_* , and let $u' \in \mathcal{M}_2$ be such that $\mathfrak{D}u' = u$. Since every real disc can be obtained as one half of its double, we have in particular $u' = v_{\pm}$ for a real rational curve v and can write

$$u = \mathfrak{D}v_{\pm}.$$

The next proposition formulates a dichotomy based on whether v is *simple* or not. Recall that simplicity for a holomorphic sphere $v : \mathbb{CP}^1 \rightarrow X$ means that it is not multiply covered, i.e. it cannot be written as $v = v' \circ \phi$, where $v' : \mathbb{CP}^1 \rightarrow X$ is another holomorphic sphere and $\phi : \mathbb{CP}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^1$ is a holomorphic branched cover of degree > 1 .

Proposition 6.2. *Let $v : \mathbb{CP}^1 \rightarrow X$ be a real rational curve.*

- (i) *If v is simple, then $\mathfrak{D}v_+$ and $\mathfrak{D}v_-$ are distinct as elements of \mathcal{M}_2 .*
- (ii) *If v is non-simple, then there exist real discs u_{\pm} satisfying*
 - $\mu(u_{\pm}) < \mu(\mathfrak{D}v_{\pm})$,
 - $(u_{\pm})(D^2) = (\mathfrak{D}v_{\pm})(D^2)$.

Proof. (i) Suppose that v is simple. In the usual identification $\mathbb{CP}^1 \setminus \{\infty\} \cong \mathbb{C}$, the discs v_{\pm} are simply the restrictions of v to the upper and lower half-planes, and the $\mathfrak{D}v_{\pm} =: \check{v}_{\pm}$ are given by $z \mapsto v(\pm z^2)$ for $z \in \mathbb{H} \subset D^2$. The images of ∂D^2 under \check{v}_{\pm} are hence

$$\check{v}_+(\partial D^2) = v(\overline{\mathbb{R}}_+) \quad \text{and} \quad \check{v}_-(\partial D^2) = v(\overline{\mathbb{R}}_-),$$

where $\overline{\mathbb{R}}_{\pm} = \mathbb{R}_{\pm} \cup \{\infty\}$ denote the extended positive and negative half-lines.

Suppose that \tilde{v}_+ and \tilde{v}_- define the same element of \mathcal{M}_2 . Then it follows in particular that $\tilde{v}_+(\partial D^2) = \tilde{v}_-(\partial D^2)$, and hence $v(\overline{\mathbb{R}}_+) = v(\overline{\mathbb{R}}_-)$. So the set of non-injective points of v contains at least all of $\mathbb{R}P^1$, contradicting the fact that this set is at most countable for any simple curve, see Proposition 2.5.1 in [22].

(ii) If v is non-simple, we can by definition write $v = v' \circ \phi$ with $v' : \mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow X$ another holomorphic sphere and a $\phi : \mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}P^1$ a branched cover of degree > 1 .

Claim. *Such v' can be chosen among real rational curves.*

Observe that the statement of part (ii) of the proposition follows from the claim, because we can then define the required discs u_{\pm} by

$$u_{\pm} := v'_{\pm},$$

i.e. as the upper respectively lower halves of v' . These clearly have the required properties.

Proof of the Claim. We first construct a Riemann surface (Σ, j) from the image of v , together with a j -anti-holomorphic involution $\nu : \Sigma \rightarrow \Sigma$ and a holomorphic map $f : \Sigma \rightarrow X$ satisfying $f = \tau \circ f \circ \nu$. Then we argue that Σ is biholomorphic to $\mathbb{C}P^1$ by a biholomorphism which intertwines ν and complex conjugation.

As for the construction of Σ , we follow closely the exposition in the proof of Proposition 2.5.1 in [22] (and refer there for more details), where essentially the same appears. Denote by $C \subset \text{Im}(v)$ the set of critical values of v , and let B be the subset of $\text{Im}(v) \setminus C$ consisting of all those points where distinct branches of v meet. That is, a point $x \in \text{Im}(v)$ is in B iff there exist distinct $z_0, z_1 \in \mathbb{C}P^1 \setminus v^{-1}(C)$ such that $v(z_0) = v(z_1) = x$ and such that for all sufficiently small neighbourhoods U_i of z_i we have $v(U_0) \neq v(U_1)$. Since B is a discrete subset of $\text{Im}(v)$, it follows that

$$\Sigma' := \text{Im}(v) \setminus (B \cup C)$$

is an embedded submanifold. We denote the embedding by $\iota : \Sigma' \rightarrow X$. Σ' carries a unique complex structure j' such that ι is holomorphic. Furthermore, Σ' has two types of ends, namely those corresponding to the points in B (a finite number for each $x \in B$, one for each branch of v through x), and those corresponding to the points in C . By adding one point to Σ' for each end and extending the complex structure, we obtain a closed Riemann surface (Σ, j) , and the embedding ι extends to a holomorphic map $f : \Sigma \rightarrow X$.

The Riemann surface (Σ', j') carries an anti-holomorphic involution ν induced by τ , i.e. given by $\nu = \iota^{-1} \circ \tau \circ \iota$, which extends to an anti-holomorphic involution of (Σ, j) . Furthermore, f satisfies $f = \tau \circ f \circ \sigma$.

By construction, Σ admits a branched cover $\mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow \Sigma$ and must hence itself be biholomorphic to $\mathbb{C}P^1$. We argue that there exists a biholomorphism $\psi : \mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow \Sigma$ intertwining complex conjugation and ν . Indeed, this follows from the fact that complex conjugation is the only anti-holomorphic involution on $\mathbb{C}P^1$ (up to conjugation with an automorphism) having a non-discrete set of fixed points, which is also the case for ν by construction.

Finally, setting

$$v' := f \circ \psi : \mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow X$$

produces the required real rational curve, which ends the proof of the claim and hence of the proposition. \square

7. THE PEARLY MODULI SPACES

In this section we recall from [7, 6] the definitions of the moduli spaces appearing in the construction of the quantum homology rings $QH(R; \Lambda_R)$ and $QH(X; \Lambda_X)$, and show that the necessary auxiliary structures may be chosen among τ -(anti)-invariant ones, which is essential for the proof of Theorem A to work.

7.1. Definitions. Fix a triple $\mathcal{D} = (f, g, J)$, where $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a Morse function, g a Riemannian metric on X and J an almost complex structure on X . Denote for now by f and g also the restrictions to R , and by Φ_t the negative gradient flow of f . We consider three different types of moduli spaces, which appear in the definitions of the Lagrangian quantum differential and the quantum products on $QH(R; \Lambda_R)$ respectively $QH(X; \Lambda_X)$. (A graphical depiction of the elements of these moduli spaces is provided in Figure 2.)

7.1.1. Pearly trajectories. Given points $x, y \in R$ (not necessarily critical) and a class $\lambda \in H_2^D(X, R)/\sim$ (recall that \sim identifies classes of the same Maslov number), denote by $\mathcal{P}(x, y, \lambda; \mathcal{D})$ the set of all tuples $(u_1, \dots, u_\ell) \in \mathcal{M}_2^{\times \ell}$ such that

- (1) All u_i are non-constant,
- (2) $\Phi_{t_0}(u_1(-1)) = x$ for some $-\infty \leq t_0 < 0$,
- (3) $\Phi_{t_i}(u_i(+1)) = u_{i+1}(-1)$ for some $0 < t_i < \infty$, $i \in [1, \ell - 1]$,
- (4) $\Phi_{t_\ell}(u_\ell(+1)) = y$ for some $0 < t_\ell \leq \infty$,
- (5) $[u_1] + \dots + [u_\ell] = \lambda$.

Here ℓ is not supposed to be fixed. If x and y are critical points of f , the virtual dimension of this space is

$$\dim_{\text{virt}} \mathcal{P}(x, y, \lambda; \mathcal{D}) = |x| - |y| + \mu(\lambda) - 1,$$

where $|\cdot|$ denotes the Morse index of $f : R \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

7.1.2. Discy Y -pearls. Choose a second Morse function $f' : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ such that all the (un)stable submanifolds of f and f' intersect transversely. Let $x, z \in \text{Crit } f$, $y \in \text{Crit } f'$, $\lambda \in H_2^D(M, L)/\sim$. Then define $\mathcal{Y}^D(x, y, z, \lambda; \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}')$ to be the set of all tuples $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{u}', \mathbf{u}'', u_c)$ where

- (1) $u_c : (D, \partial D) \rightarrow (X, R)$ is a real disc, possibly constant,
- (2) $\mathbf{u} \in \mathcal{P}(x, u_c(e^{-2\pi i/3}), \eta; f, g, J)$,
- (3) $\mathbf{u}' \in \mathcal{P}(y, u_c(e^{2\pi i/3}), \eta'; f', g, J)$,
- (4) $\mathbf{u}'' \in \mathcal{P}(u_c(1), z, \eta''; f, g, J)$,
- (5) $\eta, \eta', \eta'' \in H_2^D(x, R)/\sim$ satisfy $\eta + \eta' + \eta'' + [u_c] = \lambda$.

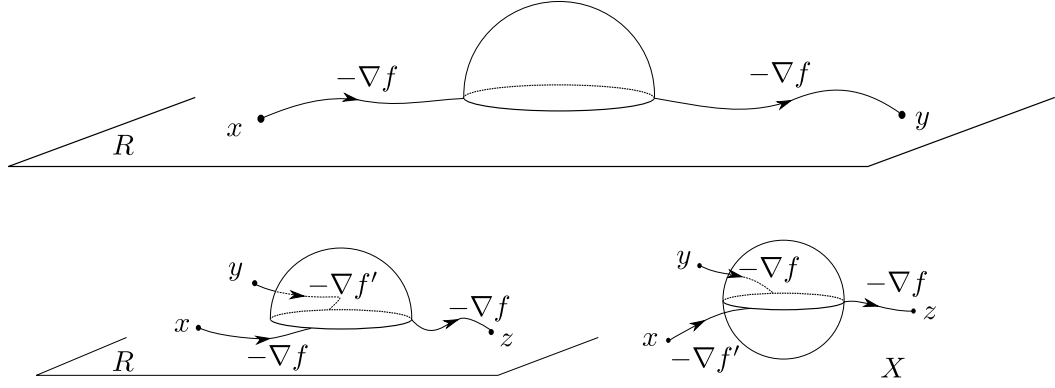


FIGURE 2. Elements of the pearly moduli spaces

We will later refer to u_c as the *central disc*. The virtual dimension in this case is

$$\dim_{\text{virt}} \mathcal{Y}^D(x, y, z, \lambda; \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}') = |x| + |y| - |z| + \mu(\lambda) - n$$

with $|\cdot|$ denoting again the Morse index of $f : R \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

7.1.3. Spherical Y -pearls. Denote by $H_2^S(X)$ the image of the Hurewicz homomorphism $\pi_2(X) \rightarrow H_2(X; \mathbb{Z})$ and by \sim the equivalence relation given by identifying classes of the same Chern number. Again, let $f' : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be a second Morse function and denote its negative gradient flow by Φ'_t . Given some $x, z \in \text{Crit } f$ and $y \in \text{Crit } f'$ and $\lambda \in H_2^S(X)/\sim$, let $\mathcal{Y}^S(x, y, z, \lambda; \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}')$ be the space of all holomorphic spheres $v : \mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow X$ such that

- (1) $\Phi_{-\infty}(v(e^{-2\pi i/3})) = x$,
- (2) $\Phi'_{-\infty}(v(e^{2\pi i/3})) = y$,
- (3) $\Phi_{+\infty}(v(1)) = z$,
- (4) $[v] = \lambda$.

The virtual dimension of this space is

$$\dim_{\text{virt}} \mathcal{Y}^S(x, y, z, \lambda; \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}') = |x| + |y| - |z| + 2c_1(\lambda) - 2n,$$

where now $|\cdot|$ denotes the Morse index of $f, f' : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$.

7.2. Regularity. This subsection serves to justify working with the following data: The standard τ -anti-invariant complex structure J_0 on X and a generic pair (f_ξ, g) , where $f_\xi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is defined by $f_\xi(x) = \langle \mu, \xi \rangle$ with some $\xi \in \mathfrak{q}$ as before, and $g \in \mathcal{G}_\tau$ is a τ -invariant Riemannian metric on X . More precisely, we prove the following proposition.

Proposition 7.1. *There exist second category subsets of $\mathfrak{q} \times \mathcal{G}_\tau$ resp. $\mathfrak{q} \times \mathfrak{q} \times \mathcal{G}_\tau$ such that for all (ξ, g) resp. (ξ, ξ', g) in these subsets all moduli spaces $\mathcal{P}(x, y, \lambda; \mathcal{D})$ resp. $\mathcal{Y}^D(x, y, z, \lambda; \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}')$ and $\mathcal{Y}^S(x, y, z, \lambda; \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}')$ defined using data triples $\mathcal{D} =$*

(f_ξ, g, J_0) resp. pairs of data triples $\mathcal{D} = (f_\xi, g, J_0)$ and $\mathcal{D}' = (\tilde{f}_{\xi'}, g, J_0)$ are smooth manifolds of the respective virtual dimension.⁴

Proof. The proof uses only standard methods. We give an outline for the case $\mathcal{P}(x, y, z, \lambda; \mathcal{D})$, the other cases being similar. Let $\lambda = (\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_\ell)$ be a vector of non-zero homology classes $\lambda_i \in H_2^D(X, R)$ and set

$$\mathcal{M}_2(\lambda) := \mathcal{M}_2(\lambda_1) \times \dots \times \mathcal{M}_2(\lambda_\ell),$$

which is a finite dimensional manifold. Then set

$$\mathcal{W}_\ell^{1,2} := W^{1,2}((-\infty, 0], R) \times (W^{1,2}([0, 1], R))^{\times(\ell-1)} \times W^{1,2}([0, \infty), R),$$

where $W^{1,2}(I, R)$ denotes the space of paths $\gamma : I \rightarrow R$ of Sobolev class $W^{1,2}$. It is well-known that $W^{1,2}(I, R)$ is a smooth Banach manifold, and hence $\mathcal{W}_\ell^{1,2}$ is so, too. Consider now the map

$$\begin{aligned} EV : \mathcal{M}_2(\lambda) \times \mathcal{W}_\ell^{1,2} &\rightarrow \mathcal{M}_2(\lambda) \times R^{2\ell+2}, \\ (\mathbf{u}, \gamma) &\mapsto \left(\mathbf{u}, (\gamma_0(-\infty), \gamma_0(0), \gamma_1(0), \dots, \gamma_\ell(\infty)) \right). \end{aligned}$$

This map is a submersion, so that the preimage under EV of every submanifold of $\mathcal{M}_2(\lambda) \times R^{2\ell+2}$ is a submanifold. In particular, the set

$$\mathcal{X} := EV^{-1} \left\{ (\mathbf{u}, (x, u_1(-1), \dots, u_\ell(+1), y)) \in \mathcal{M}_2(\lambda) \times R^{2\ell+2} \mid u \in \mathcal{M}_2(\lambda) \right\}$$

is a submanifold of $\mathcal{M}_2(\lambda) \times \mathcal{W}_\ell^{1,2}$, because the set on the right-hand side is clearly a submanifold of $\mathcal{M}_2(\lambda) \times R^{2\ell+2}$.

Fix now some $k > 0$ and let \mathcal{G}_τ^k be the set of τ -invariant metrics of class C^k , which is a Banach manifold. Consider then the Banach bundle $\mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{X} \times \mathfrak{q} \times \mathcal{G}_\tau^k$ whose fibre at $(\mathbf{u}, \gamma, \xi, g)$ is

$$\mathcal{E}_{(\mathbf{u}, \gamma, \xi, g)} = L^2(\gamma^* TR).$$

Define a section ψ of this bundle by

$$\psi(\mathbf{u}, \gamma, \xi, g) := \gamma' - V_\xi \circ \gamma := (\gamma'_0 - V_\xi \circ \gamma_0, \dots, \gamma'_\ell - V_\xi \circ \gamma_\ell),$$

where V_ξ denotes the negative gradient vector field of f_ξ with respect to g . Observe that for given (ξ, g) , there is a natural 1–1 correspondence

$$\{(\mathbf{u}, \gamma) \in \mathcal{X} \mid \psi(\mathbf{u}, \gamma, \xi, g) = 0\} \cong \mathcal{P}(x, y, \lambda; (f_\xi, g, J_0)),$$

where the set on the right-hand side denotes the space of pearly trajectories whose discs represent the vector λ .

Claim. *For every $(\mathbf{u}, \gamma, \xi, g) \in \psi^{-1}(0)$, the following assertions hold true:*

- (i) *The vertical differential $D^v \psi : T_{(\mathbf{u}, \gamma, \xi, g)}(\mathcal{X} \times \mathfrak{q} \times T_g \mathcal{G}_\tau^k) \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_{(\mathbf{u}, \gamma, \xi, g)}$ is onto.*
- (ii) *The restricted vertical differential $D_1^v \psi : T_{(\mathbf{u}, \gamma)} \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_{(\mathbf{u}, \gamma, \xi, g)}$ is a Fredholm operator of index $|x| - |y| + \mu(\lambda) - 1$.*

⁴As in the case of the Morse intersection product (see the end of Section 3.2), we use as the Morse function in the second triple used for the definition of the quantum product a slightly perturbed version $\tilde{f}_{\xi'}$ of $f_{\xi'}$, such as to ensure that the critical sets of f_ξ and $\tilde{f}_{\xi'}$ are disjoint.

Once this is proven, the statement of the proposition will follow by first applying a standard theorem (see e.g. [20]), which says that under these conditions the set of $(\xi, g) \in \mathfrak{q} \times \mathcal{G}_\tau^k$ for which $\{(\mathbf{u}, \gamma) \mid \psi(\mathbf{u}, \gamma, \xi, g) = 0\} \subset \mathcal{M}_2(\boldsymbol{\lambda}) \times \mathcal{W}_\ell^{1,2}$ is a smooth submanifold of the right dimension is of second category, and then using a procedure due to Taubes to get from C^k to C^∞ (see the proof of Theorem 3.1.5 (ii) in [22]).

We omit the proof of assertion (ii), which is standard. As for (i), note that $D^v\psi$ evaluated on a tangent vector of the form $(0, 0, 0, \dot{g})$ with $\dot{g} \in T_g\mathcal{G}_\tau^k$ yields

$$D^v\psi(0, 0, 0, \dot{g}) = -\dot{V}_\xi \circ \gamma,$$

where $\dot{V}_\xi = -g^{-1}\dot{g}(V_\xi)$ is the variation of the gradient vector field induced by \dot{g} (here we view g, \dot{g} as sections of $\text{Hom}(TX, T^*X)$). Let $W \in L^2(\gamma^*TR)$ be any element orthogonal to the range of $D_1^v\psi$ (which is a closed subspace of $\mathcal{E}(\mathbf{u}, \gamma, \xi, g)$, since $D_1^v\psi$ is Fredholm). Then in particular

$$\int_\gamma g(\dot{V}_\xi, W) ds = 0$$

for all $\dot{g} \in T_g\mathcal{G}_\tau^k$. Now given any point $p \in \text{im } \gamma \in R$, one can easily find some $\dot{g}(p) \in \text{Hom}(T_pR, T_p^*R)$ such that $\dot{V}_{f_\xi}(p) = W(p)$ for the corresponding \dot{V}_ξ . Here we assume W to be continuous, which is legal by density of continuous sections in L^2 . Extending $\dot{g}(p)$ by using a τ -invariant cut-off function supported near p yields an element $\dot{g} \in T_g\mathcal{G}_\tau^k$, and the fact that it pairs to zero with W allows to conclude that $W(p) = 0$. This argument works because γ consists of pieces of gradient flow lines, which cannot intersect each other. So $W \equiv 0$, and hence $D_1^v\psi$ is surjective. \square

7.3. Compactness. To be able to count the elements of the zero-dimensional pearly moduli spaces, we need the following proposition.

Proposition 7.2. *Let $\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}'$ be generic data triples in the sense of Proposition 7.1. Then all moduli spaces $\mathcal{P}(x, y, \lambda; \mathcal{D})$, $\mathcal{Y}^D(x, y, z, \lambda; \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}')$ and $\mathcal{Y}^S(x, y, z, \lambda; \mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}')$ of dimension zero are compact, i.e. finite sets.*

The proof of this proposition is the point where the assumptions of monotonicity and $C_X \geq 2$ are needed. Given that these are satisfied, it requires no arguments which are special to our situation, but follows directly from Biran–Cornea’s general theory. The idea for proving compactness in dimension zero is that if there were some sequence without a converging subsequence, then a subsequence would have to Gromov-converge to a pearly configuration in some other space, e.g. by bubbling off of a sphere. From this one could extract a configuration in a pearly moduli space of *negative* virtual dimension (in our example by forgetting the sphere), contradicting the fact that such a space must be empty by Proposition 7.1. For a precise version of this argument, see [6].

8. PROOF OF THEOREM A

8.1. Proof of Theorem A (i). We briefly recall the definition of the quantum homology $QH(R; \Lambda_R)$, referring to [7, 6] for details. Given a data triple $\mathcal{D} = (f, g, J)$, define the graded vector space

$$\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{D}; \Lambda_R) = \mathbb{Z}_2 \langle \text{Crit } f \rangle \otimes \Lambda_R$$

whose grading is induced by the Morse index of f and the grading of Λ_R . Consider the Λ_R -linear homomorphism $d : \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{D}; \Lambda_R) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{D}; \Lambda_R)$ given by

$$dx = \sum_{y, \lambda} (\#_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \mathcal{P}(x, y, \lambda)) y t^{\mu(\lambda)/N_R},$$

for $x \in \text{Crit } f$, where the sum runs over all $y \in \text{Crit } f$ and all $\lambda \in H_2^D(X, R)/\sim$ such that $|x| - |y| - \mu(\lambda) - 1 = 0$. Assuming a generic choice of \mathcal{D} , the count makes sense, because then $\mathcal{P}(x, y, \lambda)$ is a compact 0-dimensional manifold, i.e. a finite set of points. Moreover, d is a differential, i.e. $d^2 = 0$. The quantum homology of R is then defined as

$$QH(R; \Lambda_R) := QH(\mathcal{D}; \Lambda_R) := H(\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{D}; \Lambda_R), d)$$

and is independent of the data up to isomorphism, in the sense that given another data triple \mathcal{D}' there exists a chain map $\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{D}; \Lambda_R) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{D}'; \Lambda_R)$ inducing a canonical isomorphism

$$\Psi_{\mathcal{D}', \mathcal{D}} : QH(\mathcal{D}; \Lambda_R) \rightarrow QH(\mathcal{D}'; \Lambda_R).$$

We now specialize to the case that (f_ξ, g_0, J_0) is a triple as in Section 7, with $f_\xi \in \mathcal{F}_0$ chosen such as to make all the corresponding pearly moduli spaces manifolds of the expected dimension. We know that we compute the right quantum invariants when working with such data, because we can relate the corresponding moduli spaces to those for arbitrary generic data by a compact cobordism. This follows from the regularity results in Section 7 and the general theory of Biran–Cornea.

Claim. *For this choice of data $\mathcal{D} = (f_\xi, g_0, J_0)$, the corresponding homomorphism*

$$d : \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{D}; \Lambda_R) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(\mathcal{D}; \Lambda_R)$$

vanishes.

The wideness statement of Theorem A follows immediately from the claim: The vanishing of d implies firstly that d is a differential, and secondly that the complex $(\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{D}; \Lambda_R), d = 0)$ is identical to the Morse complex associated to f_ξ . Hence the map

$$QH(\mathcal{D}; \Lambda_R) \rightarrow HM(f_\xi) \otimes \Lambda_R \tag{2}$$

induced by mapping a quantum homology class $[x]_Q$ represented by some $x \in \text{Crit } f_\xi$ to the class $[x]_M$ represented by x in Morse homology gives rise to an isomorphism

$$QH(R; \Lambda_R) \cong H(R; \mathbb{Z}_2) \otimes \Lambda_R.$$

We will explain below why this isomorphism is canonical, in the sense that the isomorphisms of type (2) are compatible with the comparison isomorphisms relating different choices of data.

Proof of the Claim. Let $x, y \in \text{Crit } f_\xi$, let $\lambda \in H_2^D(X, R)/\sim$ be such that $|x| - |y| + \mu(\lambda) = 0$ and consider the involution

$$\tau_*^{\mathcal{P}} : \mathcal{P}(x, y, \lambda) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(x, y, \lambda), \quad (u_1, \dots, u_k) \mapsto (\tau_* u_1, \dots, \tau_* u_k),$$

on the space of pearly trajectories, where on the right τ_* denotes the involution on \mathcal{M}_2 defined in Section 6. Observe that

$$\#_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \mathcal{P}(x, y, \lambda) = \#_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \text{Fix } \tau_*^{\mathcal{P}}.$$

Hence $d = 0$ will follow if we can show that the number of fixed points of $\tau_*^{\mathcal{P}}$ is even. So suppose that $(u_1, \dots, u_k) \in \mathcal{P}(x, y, \lambda)$ is a fixed point of $\tau_*^{\mathcal{P}}$, which is equivalent to all u_i being fixed points of $\tau_* : \mathcal{M}_2 \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_2$. By Lemma 6.1 and the discussion in Section 6.2 we can write

$$(u_1, \dots, u_k) := (\mathfrak{D}v_{1,+}, \dots, \mathfrak{D}v_{k,+})$$

with real rational curves $v_i : \mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow X$ (recall that v_+ denotes the upper half of $v : \mathbb{C}P^1 \rightarrow X$). We will argue below that all v_i have to be simple. Assuming this for the moment, consider the pearly trajectory

$$(u'_1, \dots, u'_k) := (\mathfrak{D}v_{1,-}, \dots, \mathfrak{D}v_{k,-}).$$

By Proposition 6.2 (i), we have $\mathfrak{D}v_{i,+} \neq \mathfrak{D}v_{i,-}$ in \mathcal{M}_2 and consequently

$$(u_1, \dots, u_k) \neq (u'_1, \dots, u'_k)$$

in $\mathcal{P}(x, y, \lambda)$. This shows that all fixed points of $\tau_*^{\mathcal{P}}$ occur in pairs, so that their total number is even.

It remains to justify the simplicity assumption. Consider an element of $\mathcal{P}(x, y, \lambda)$ containing a real disc $u = \mathfrak{D}v_+$ fixed by $\tau_* : \mathcal{M}_2 \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_2$. If v were non-simple, we could infer by Proposition 6.2 (ii) that there exists some real disc u' with

$$\mu(u') < \mu(u) \quad \text{and} \quad u'(D) = u(D).$$

Replacing u by u' would hence yield a new pearly trajectory representing a homology class λ' of Maslov number strictly lower than $\mu(\lambda)$. But this is not possible, because under our genericity assumptions $\mathcal{P}(x, y, \lambda')$ is a manifold of dimension

$$|x| - |y| + \mu(\lambda') - 1 < 0$$

and thus empty. We conclude that v is simple. \square

It remains to address the question of why the isomorphism $QH(R; \Lambda_R) \rightarrow H(R; \mathbb{Z}_2) \otimes \Lambda_R$ to which the family of isomorphisms (2) gives rise is *canonical*. What we mean by that is that all diagrams of the form

$$\begin{array}{ccc} QH(\mathcal{D}; \Lambda_R) & \longrightarrow & HM(f) \otimes \Lambda_R \\ \Psi_{\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}'} \downarrow & & \downarrow \Psi_{f, f'}^M \\ QH(\mathcal{D}'; \Lambda_R) & \longrightarrow & HM(f') \otimes \Lambda_R \end{array}$$

commute, where the horizontal arrows are as in (2) and the vertical arrows are the comparison isomorphisms in quantum respectively Morse homologies. In general $\Psi_{\mathcal{D}', \mathcal{D}} : QH(\mathcal{D}; \Lambda_R) \rightarrow QH(\mathcal{D}'; \Lambda_R)$ is of the form

$$\Psi_{\mathcal{D}', \mathcal{D}} = \Psi_{f', f}^M + \Psi_{\mathcal{D}', \mathcal{D}}^Q t$$

where $\Psi_{\mathcal{D}', \mathcal{D}}^Q$ counts certain configurations containing holomorphic discs (see [6, 7] for details). So the potential source of non-canonicity is that $\Psi_{\mathcal{D}', \mathcal{D}}^Q$ might not vanish. However, in our specific case a cancellation argument as in the proof of the claim shows

$$\Psi_{\mathcal{D}', \mathcal{D}}^Q = 0$$

and hence our isomorphism is canonical. This ends the proof of Theorem A (i). \square

8.2. Proof of Theorem A (ii). As in the proof of the wideness part we work with data triples of the form $\mathcal{D} = (f_\xi, g_0, J_0)$, and when the product is concerned with a second triple $\mathcal{D}' = (\tilde{f}_{\xi'}, g_0, J_0)$, where $f_\xi, f_{\xi'} \in \mathcal{F}_0$.

We already know that $QH(R; \Lambda_R)$ and $QH(X; \Lambda_X)$ are isomorphic to $H(R; \mathbb{Z}_2) \otimes \Lambda_R$ respectively $H(X; \mathbb{Z}_2) \otimes \Lambda_X$ and hence isomorphic to each other *as modules*. Explicitly, a (degree-doubling) isomorphism is induced by

$$\mathcal{C}(R; \mathcal{D}) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(X; \mathcal{D}), \quad x \mapsto x,$$

where $f_\xi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ is a generic Morse function of the type described in Section 7, and by the degree-doubling ring isomorphism

$$\Lambda_R \rightarrow \Lambda_X$$

determined by $t \mapsto q$ (recall that $|q| = -2C_L = -2N_R = 2|t|$). Here we denote by $\mathcal{C}(R; \mathcal{D}) = (\mathbb{Z}_2 \langle \text{Crit} f_\xi \rangle \otimes \Lambda_R, d = 0)$ the Lagrangian quantum complex and by $\mathcal{C}(X; \mathcal{D})$ the complex $(\mathbb{Z}_2 \langle \text{Crit} f_\xi \rangle \otimes \Lambda_X, d = 0)$ whose homology is $QH(X; \Lambda_X)$. It follows from the discussion at the end of the proof of Theorem A (i) that this isomorphism is canonical.

It remains to show that the isomorphism is compatible with the quantum products on both sides. We recall from [7, 6] that the quantum product on $QH(R; \Lambda_R)$ is by definition induced by the $\Lambda_{\mathbb{Z}_2}$ -linear homomorphism

$$\mathcal{C}(R; \mathcal{D}) \otimes \mathcal{C}(R; \mathcal{D}') \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(R; \mathcal{D}), \quad x \otimes y \mapsto x * y,$$

given by

$$x * y := \sum_{z, \lambda} (\#_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \mathcal{Y}^D(x, y, z, \lambda)) z t^{\mu(\lambda)/N_R},$$

where x, y, z and $\lambda \in H_2^D(X, R)$ are such that $|x| + |y| - |z| + \mu(\lambda) - n = 0$. Similarly, the quantum product on $QH(X; \Lambda_X)$ is defined by \mathbb{Z}_2 -counting elements in the moduli spaces

$$\mathcal{Y}^S(x, y, z; \lambda)$$

of spherical pearls described in Section 7, with critical points x, y, z and $\lambda \in H_2^S(X)$.

Observe that there is a 1–1 correspondence between the sets $H_2^D(X, R)/\sim$ and $H_2^S(X)/\sim$ induced by mapping the class λ represented by some disc to the class

λ^\sharp represented by its double (recall that \sim identifies classes of the same Maslov respectively Chern numbers). The theorem will hence follow if we can show

$$\#_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \mathcal{Y}^D(x, y, z, \lambda) = \#_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \mathcal{Y}^S(x, y, z, \lambda^\sharp).$$

To do so, we begin by decomposing the moduli space $\mathcal{Y}^D(x, y, z, \lambda)$ as

$$\mathcal{Y}^D(x, y, z, \lambda) = \mathcal{Y}_0^D(x, y, z, \lambda) \sqcup \mathcal{Y}_1^D(x, y, z, \lambda),$$

where $\mathcal{Y}_0^D(x, y, z, \lambda)$ is the subset consisting of all those Y-pearls containing some non-constant non-central disc, so that $\mathcal{Y}_1^D(x, y, z, \lambda)$ is the subset of those Y-pearls containing at most a central disc.

Claim 1. $\#_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \mathcal{Y}_0^D(x, y, z, \lambda) = 0$.

Proof. Consider the involution

$$\tau_*^{\mathcal{Y}^S} : \mathcal{Y}^D(x, y, z, \lambda) \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}^D(x, y, z, \lambda)$$

given by reflecting all discs in a product pearl except the central one (note that reflecting the central one would lead to an element in the moduli space $\mathcal{Y}^S(y, x, z, \lambda)$ with x and y reversed). Using precisely the same arguments as in the proof of Theorem A (i) one shows that all fixed points of $\tau_*^{\mathcal{Y}^S}$ occur in pairs, which proves the claim. \square

Claim 2. $\#_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \mathcal{Y}_1^D(x, y, z, \lambda) = \#_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \mathcal{Y}^S(x, y, z, \lambda^\sharp)$.

Proof of Claim 2. There is an obvious map

$$\mathcal{Y}_1^D(x, y, z, \lambda) \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}^S(x, y, z, \lambda^\sharp)$$

given by replacing the central disc u of any Y-pearl by its double u^\sharp .

We argue that this map is injective. Suppose $u_0 \neq u_1$ and $u_0^\sharp = u_1^\sharp$. Then we must have $u_1 = \tau \circ u_0 \circ c$ (the reflection of u_0), and in particular

$$u_1(e^{-2\pi i/3}) = u_0(e^{2\pi i/3}) \quad \text{and} \quad u_1(e^{2\pi i/3}) = u_0(e^{-2\pi i/3}).$$

Since u_0 appears in a Y-pearl, we may assume $u_0(e^{2\pi i/3}) \neq u_0(e^{-2\pi i/3})$ under our genericity assumptions, so that we obtain $u_0(e^{2\pi i/3}) \neq u_1(e^{2\pi i/3})$ and hence $u_0^\sharp(e^{2\pi i/3}) \neq u_1^\sharp(e^{2\pi i/3})$, contradicting $u_0^\sharp = u_1^\sharp$.

The only Y-pearls which are not in the image of this map are those which are not τ -invariant, in the sense that they contain a sphere which is not a real rational curve or a Morse trajectory which is not entirely contained in R . But for these it is easy to see that they occur in pairs and thus do not contribute to the quantum product. \square

From the two claims we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} \#_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \mathcal{Y}^D(x, y, z, \lambda) &= \#_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \mathcal{Y}_0^D(x, y, z, \lambda) + \#_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \mathcal{Y}_1^D(x, y, z, \lambda) \\ &= \#_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \mathcal{Y}_1^D(x, y, z, \lambda) \\ &= \#_{\mathbb{Z}_2} \mathcal{Y}^S(x, y, z, \lambda^\sharp), \end{aligned}$$

which ends the proof of Theorem A (ii). \square

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